

Hamas to stop killing collaborators

GAZA (R) — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said Sunday it would stop killing Palestinians who collaborated with Israel and urged Palestinian police to deal with them. Hamas made the statement in a leaflet a day after it said it killed two men it suspected of being collaborators in the Gaza Strip, now a Palestinian self-rule area. Those responsible for the killings Friday would be "dealt with by the Palestinian authority through legal measures." In the leaflet sent to an international news agency, Hamas said it would stop killing collaborators for the time being and called on "all its fighters to commit themselves to this position." The Islamic Resistance Movement "demands the Palestinian police understand our position, and we urge them to confront the danger of collaborators and speed up a solution to this matter," it said. The deaths of the two alleged collaborators were the first such reported killings since the May 4 self-rule agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel.

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Al Hassan leaves for Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan Sunday arrived in Cairo to participate in ministerial meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) conference due to open Tuesday. Mr. Al Hassan told Jordan Television before departing to Cairo that the four-day conference will discuss, among other issues, the future of NAM, the structure of the United Nations and its General Assembly and Security Council and political issues including the Middle East peace process.

Bouez arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez arrived in Amman Sunday to take part in the 17th ministerial session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) which opened here earlier in the day (see page 3). In statements upon arrival, Mr. Bouez said his participation in the meetings carry special significance since the Lebanese capital, Beirut, is one of the candidate cities to host ESCWA headquarters, noting that ESCWA was based in Beirut until the start of the Lebanese civil war. He said he will meet with several Jordanian officials during his stay in Amman for talks on issues of common interest.

Honecker dies in Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Erich Honecker, who supervised construction of the Berlin wall and ruled Communist East Germany with an iron fist for 18 years, died Sunday in Chile. He was 81. Mr. Honecker spent his final days in Chile, bitter in self-imposed exile and unrepentant about his brutal regime. Mr. Honecker's lawyer, Nicholas Becker, reached by telephone in Bonn, said he didn't know the immediate cause of death. Mr. Honecker had lived in Chile since early 1993 with his wife Margot and their daughter Sonja. A spokesman for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whose aggressive push for reunification led to the end of East Germany, released a brief, blunt statement. "Honecker failed in his political goals. His policies brought suffering to countless people in Germany. Out of respect for the dead, it is fitting to say little more about his role in postwar German history," said spokesman Dieter Vogel.

Israel allows in \$13,000 Palestinian workers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel decided Sunday to allow 13,000 Palestinians to enter the country to work, raising the total number of workers from the Gaza Strip and West Bank to 25,500, the labour ministry said. The ministry's spokesman Hanan Robin said the 13,000 construction workers would have to be over the age of 25, married, and have already worked in Israel for at least five years, for security reasons. Since the army sealed off the occupied territories April 7, following a bus bombing which left eight Israelis dead, the closure has been progressively eased.

Communists win absolute majority in Hungary election

BUDAPEST (AFP) — Hungary's former communists won an absolute majority Sunday in the second round of the country's general election, the national election centre said. Known as the Hungarian Socialist Party, led by Gyula Horn, the former foreign minister in the communist administration that fell in 1989, the former communists were certain of getting 197 seats out of 386, with 99.92 per cent of the vote in, the centre said. The absolute majority is 194 seats (See earlier story on page 10).

Sanaa rejects U.N. role in halting civil war

CAIRO (Agencies) — Yemen's Foreign Minister Mohammad Bassandawa Sunday rejected U.N. efforts to secure a ceasefire in his country's civil war, denying an Egyptian report that Sanaa had changed its mind.

Yemen "rejects any U.N. Security Council interference in its internal affairs," the foreign minister, a northern, told reporters here after a meeting with Arab League chief Esmat Meguid.

His Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa said earlier that Mr. Bassandawa had agreed to a U.N. debate on the north-south civil war, following talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

"Sanaa has agreed that the question of a ceasefire be examined by the U.N. Security Council," in contrast to its previous stand that the international community should stay out of the conflict," Mr. Musa said.

Mr. Bassandawa himself said earlier that the council "must insist on preserving Yemen's unity" and reiterated the north's conditions for a ceasefire with the breakaway south.

"We want an end to the fighting as well as a Security Council decision in this direction," the foreign minister said. "Then a dialogue could be launched between the two parties."

He added the south must go back on its May 21 declaration of an independent state, "because this decision is illegal" under the constitution of Yemen, which was unified in May

1990. "Unity happened voluntarily in 1990 and it is still the basis of any solution," he said.

Mr. Bassandawa said the north was in contact with southern officials who reject separation, in contrast to their leader Ali Salem Al Beidh, whom Sanaa wants to put on trial for war crimes.

Saudi Arabia and Oman, backed by other Gulf states and Egypt, have urged the Security Council to call for a ceasefire to the war raging in Yemen since May 4 and to impose an arms embargo on both sides.

The south has welcomed the plan, while insisting that northern troops withdraw to the old border between conservative, tribal North Yemen and former Marxist South.

But in Sanaa, Deputy Prime Minister Abdelwahab Al Ansi told European Union ambassadors Sunday that U.N. intervention would be in violation of the organisation's charter.

U.N. action "exposes countries which have far more serious problems than Yemen to interference in their internal affairs," he said.

The Yemeni parliament also rejected outside interference to the civil war, saying such action would only serve to encourage secessionists, the official news agency Saba reported.

Interference by any state, regional or international organisation would also violate the Yemeni constitution, parliamentarians said.

The parliamentarians rejected as "high treason" their civil war foes' declaration of secession.

Its hardline statement, carried on state radio, contradicted reports that Sanaa and the breakaway southerners based in Aden were moving closer to a ceasefire in the three-week-old war.

In Aden, Haitham Qassem Taher, the southerners' defence minister, also saw no imminent truce. He told reporters on Sunday: "It is too early to talk about this (ceasefire) now... We are in a period of military escalation."

Mr. Taher was defence minister in united Yemen, formed by the 1990 merger between North and South Yemen, which finally collapsed on May 4 after a year-long power struggle between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Al Beidh.

In Abu Dhabi, an envoy from south Yemen said he expected the United Nations Security Council to call for a ceasefire in the next few days.

"I expect the Security Council to discuss the Yemeni problem in the next few days and to issue a resolution calling for a ceasefire," the envoy, Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas, told AFP before flying to Kuwait.

"The resolution will be binding to all parties and we are ready to stick to it. I think it is in the interest of the Yemeni people to halt the war," he said.

Mr. Attas met United Arab Emirates (UAE) President

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Aden requests Jordan's mediation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament has not yet responded to a request by a southern Yemeni official to play a "prominent role" in mediation efforts to end the war in Yemen in accordance with conditions set by the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) in Aden.

House Speaker Taher Al Masri said Sunday he hasn't yet looked into ways of dealing with the request, which was made by Anis Hassan Yehya, president of the "Provisional Assembly for National Salvation" the caretaker parliament in the "Yemen Democratic Republic."

In the letter, which was faxed to Mr. Masri Saturday evening, Mr. Yehya called on Jordan to intervene to "end the bloodshed and the destruction of our people and country" by demanding an end to

the war and the withdrawal of northern Yemeni forces to the borders that existed between South and North Yemen before they merged in 1990.

Mr. Yehya also called on the Kingdom to work with other "Arab brethren" to launch unconditional negotiations between the warring parties in Yemen under the auspices of the Arab League.

The southern Yemeni official said Aden welcomes a prominent role for Jordan in negotiating an end to the war, especially that Amman hosted the signing of the Yemeni reconciliation accord in February.

Civil war erupted in Yemen on May 4 after Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his then Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh failed to find a peaceful settlement to their conflict.

Mr. Al Beidh later declared an end to the merger between

the north and the south, forming the Democratic Yemeni Republic.

More than three weeks of fighting have failed to produce a military victory for either side and observers expect a protracted civil war. Mr. Saleh has rejected foreign mediation efforts, including those by the Arab League, saying the war is an internal Yemeni affair.

The official Jordanian media has taken what seems to be a pro-north Yemeni stand, referring to the government in Sanaa as the legitimate government and calling the forces of Mr. Al Beidh secessionists.

Parliamentary sources said Sunday that Jordan opposes the fighting and supports unity, accepting whatever the Yemeni people decide for themselves.

"We will not impose anything on any side," one lawmaker said.

PLO to stick to accord but will seek statehood

Policy statement promises free, fair elections

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will stick to the self-rule accord but will still seek a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, the new self-rule authority said in remarks obtained here Sunday.

The authority said it is "completely bound by commitments undertaken by the PLO" including the accord signed with Israel on May 4 in Cairo, as well as the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington in September.

And it repeated its commitment to "all that is capable of creating peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis."

The pledge followed a row over a speech by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on May 10 in a Johannesburg mosque in which he called for a "jihad" or holy war to recapture Jerusalem, which was broadcast by Israeli radio two weeks ago.

work on the ground" this week when ministers who live in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip return home from the first PNA meeting in Tunis.

"Some PNA members are returning today (Sunday) to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to start their new job, and those exiled will go later but have to start planning new structures and preparing budgets," Samir Ghosheh, the PNA minister of labour, told Reuters.

Those going back had "received instructions to start work on the ground," he said.

Mr. Ghosheh did not name the members returning but said they lived in the territories. Mr. Arafat's 15 appointees included eight residents and seven living in exile. Seven posts remain to be filled.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa published Sunday the eight-page text of a programme approved by the PNA at its Saturday meeting.

The policy statement said the new self-rule authority

was committed to the PLO's accords with Israel and wanted Israel to commit itself to "complete implementation."

"It said the PNA would hold to the PLO position that East Jerusalem was an inseparable part of the Palestinian land."

Among other pledges, it promised that elections would be free and fair, fundamental freedoms would be protected and public finances would be transparent.

The PLO Saturday handed out 15 from the 22 portfolios of the 24-member PNA, with two key economic posts awarded to men who negotiated the peace deal with Israel, Ahmed Qureia (Abu Ala) and Nabil Shaath.

PLO officials said that senior Palestinian leader Faisal Al Hussein and Munib Al Masri (from Nablus) will stay as "ministers" without portfolios at their own request.

They said PNA chairman Arafat — who will also keep the interior and security portfolio — has been mandated to continue consultations to



HIS ROYAL Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Sunday receives Qatari Minister of Finance, Economy and Trade Sheikh Mohammad Bin Khalifeh Bin Hamad Al Thani (centre) in the presence of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bin Zeid. The Qatari minister is in Amman to take part in the 17th ministerial session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia which began Sunday (see story page 3) Petra photo

House insists on segregating sexes at sports facilities

AMMAN (Petra) — The segregation of sexes at swimming pools and sports clubs came under scrutiny by the Lower House of Parliament Sunday as deputies discussed the amended youth welfare law, which was turned back to the House by the Upper House of Parliament (the Senate) after several amendments were introduced to it.

The House supported the stand of its Judicial Committee, which insisted on preserving amendments introduced by the Lower House to the law.

A heated debate took place at the meeting over clause C of the law's article 2, which was added by the Lower House, stipulating that the ministry of

youth shall segregate sexes at swimming pools. The clause was deleted by the Upper House.

The House's Judiciary Committee insisted on maintaining the clause in the law, saying sexual segregation in public swimming pools "conforms with our Islamic values and the deeply-rooted morals of our society."

With some deputies saying it was difficult to segregate the sexes in private swimming pools or on the Aqaba and the Dead Sea beaches, others called for specifying which pools would fall under the provisions of the law. They said that it was possible to apply the article to the ministry's swimming

pools, while it was difficult to apply it to those of hotels, tourist facilities and Aqaba and the Dead Sea beaches.

They said the law should not include swimming pools at tourist areas since this might affect the tourism industry.

The House then approved the amended 1994 Civil Courts Law after its Judiciary Committee introduced several amendments to it. It commenced its debate of the amended Municipalities Law, which was sent back to it by the Senate, which introduced several amendments to it. The House approved some of these amendments but insisted on preserving others as they were passed by it.

Egypt names committee to start national dialogue

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Sunday named 42 leading politicians and union figures to organise a long-delayed "national dialogue" expected to tackle economic and social issues, including Egypt's conflict with Muslim militants.

The committee will choose participants and set an agenda for the talks, which the government hopes will rally secular opposition groups to its struggle against the militants.

"This is not just an invitation to take decisions, formulate programmes, or survey opinion... But (to take a) serious and responsible consideration of Egypt's future," Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told newly appointed committee members.

Diplomats have said the gov-

ernment hopes the dialogue will help form a "national front" which would draw Egypt's weak and divided secular opposition into alliance with the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) against the Islamists.

But Mr. Mubarak said dialogue had broader aims than simply isolating religious extremism.

"The invitation to dialogue was not a response to a national crisis, forced by circumstances... or a broad move to form a party bloc, a so-called 'national front'," Mr. Mubarak said.

"It is a sincere national call which rises above party factionalism, which fuses together the Egyptian state, government, people and society in

one organisation working for Egypt's national cause," he said.

Members of the preparatory committee include prominent figures in all major political parties, including the ruling NDP and the socialist Labour Party, a leftist group which has had a tactical alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Leaders of professional unions sympathetic to the Brotherhood, which is banned but in practice tolerated, have also been appointed to the committee.

Mr. Mubarak, who earlier this month blamed the Brotherhood for religious violence in Egypt, repeated his insistence that no illegal parties

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Saddam Hussein takes over as premier

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sacked his prime minister Sunday and took over personally as head of a new government. The ruling Revolution Command Council (RCC) said the change was needed because of the "unjust (U.N.) embargo and the need for special effort on economic issues to protect the living standards of the people. There were no major changes in the cabinet, with ministers keeping their posts. But the RCC announcement, carried by the official INA news agency, said Mr. Hussein would have three deputy prime ministers. These were Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan, Tariq Aziz, already a deputy, and Mohammad Hanza Al Zubeidi. All are members of the RCC. Prime Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayir was sacked after the Iraqi dinar currency plunged to new lows, sparking a direct attack on him by a newspaper published by Mr. Hussein's son, Uday.

Embargo could be lifted in 'foreseeable future'

AMMAN (R) — The United Nations official overseeing Iraq's disarmament said Sunday he expected the Security Council to hold detailed discussions in July on easing crippling trade sanctions imposed on Baghdad.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Commission monitoring Iraq's adherence to the Security Council's demands for dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said there were no major differences with Iraq on efforts to monitor Baghdad's weapons.

Mr. Ekeus, who had meetings with Amer Rashid, head of Iraq's Ministry of Military Industrialisation in Amman on Saturday and Sunday, said he would brief the security council on the latest developments at a closed session on May 31.

"This matter is of course very high on the agenda," he told reporters asking if the United Nations was considering lifting sanctions on Iraq, imposed after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"I think it is a good hope that this (lifting the embargo) can happen within the foreseeable future," he added.

A prerequisite for lifting sanctions is the establishment of a technical baseline from which Iraq's future arms developments can be measured.

Iraq, which says it has complied with most Gulf war ceasefire terms, rejected an earlier U.N. scheme that would let it sell limited quantities of oil under strict terms to buy food and medicine.

Mr. Ekeus said it was important Iraq accept, and not obstruct, "the very complex control system we impose upon it on the basis of the resolutions."

He said Iraq had demonstrated a positive attitude in working with the United Nations in the past month. He said that contrasted with Iraq's attempts to block the controls before, it accepted the system last November.

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq and the United Nations were largely agreed on guidelines. "For us it is more that we have to satisfy ourselves and the international community that we have a good control system in place and it is hard work."

The system, he said, insured that the provisions of the Israel-PLO accord were met.

"I don't think Israel can allow any hint or process that gives the impression that Jerusalem is going to be the capital of the Palestinians. This is against the agreement that we signed," he told reporters.

PLO officials, however, maintain that Israel has tried to get a jump on negotiations by launching a campaign to build new neighbourhoods in the Arab sector of the city.

"They want to reinforce their status in Jerusalem before they start negotiations," said Hatem Abdul Qader, spokesman for the Orient House.

"The battle over Jerusalem started a long time ago," he said.

"We are maintaining and building our institutions. They are a symbol of our national presence and steadfastness."

On the ground, the PLO opened a housing ministry, statistics bureau and the economic agencies in East Jerusalem, including the Palestinian Council for Development and Reconstruction that is to channel hundreds of millions

(Continued on page 5)

South Yemen's air power keeps Saleh out of Aden

DUBAI (AFP) — Southern Yemen's air power, courtesy of the former Soviet Union, has thwarted Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's battle plan of a quick capture of the southern bastion of Aden.

More than 100 MiG-21, MiG-23, and Sukhoi warplanes have flown sorties each day, mainly from Aden airport, to keep the president's northern troops at bay.

The bombers, supplies by the Soviet Union in the days of pre-unification South Yemen, have the terrain in their favour.

They are defending against an enemy which, now that it has broken through the mountain passes, is exposed on the flatlands, notably on the front-line north of the port city of Aden.

"That's why the northern forces are having trouble advancing" in the two weeks

since they seized the key southern military base of Al Anad, 60 kilometres from Aden, said a diplomat in the region. "They are totally uncovered."

The same goes for the western and eastern fronts, where the well-trained southern air force has kept the northerners pinned down.

General Saleh also has a strong air force, but most of his 70 fighters have been kept on the ground, apparently because Aden oil refinery has cut off supplies to the north.

From the earliest stages of the civil war, which erupted on May 5 after nine months of political crisis between Mr. Saleh and his southern rival Ali Salem Al Beidh, the north boasted that Aden was on the verge of falling.

And yet Aden's airport is still operational, even though missile and air attacks have

closed it to civilian flights, as is its vital refinery and its port, albeit at a slower rate.

After the initial shock, the south has reorganised its troops to resist an army which is numerically superior.

"A son who has been beaten up by his father will stop obeying him in the end," southern Colonel Mohammad Abdullah told AFP at the war-front to the east of Aden.

Southerners, generally fiercely opposed to the war, charge that the conservative, tribal north had tried to dominate and annex the formerly Marxist south since the country was unified on May 22, 1990.

On May 21, the eve of the fourth anniversary of united Yemen, Mr. Beidh declared a separate state in the south, the Yemen Democratic Republic (YDR).

The United Nations, at the

prompting of neighbours Saudi Arabia and Oman, is trying to arrange a ceasefire but Mr. Saleh is still after a military solution to keep Yemen united and wants the international community to stay out.

Anis Hassan Yahia, chairman of the Provisional Assembly of National Salvation, the YDR's week-old caretaker parliament, sent a message to Jordanian Parliamentary Speaker Taher Al Masri Saturday, an official source in Aden said.

Mr. Yahia asked for the "rapid intervention" of Jordan, which brokered an unheeded peace accord last February, with the aim of "stopping the war, returning the warring armies to their original positions and starting immediate negotiations without preconditions under the aegis of the Arab League."



Yemeni soldiers take cover behind a wall as fighting goes on since three weeks between south and north Yemenis. North Yemeni forces took control of the key military base at Al Anad, some 50 kilometres north of Aden (AFP photo)

Time running out for Israel-Syria peace — Eban

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy
USIA

WASHINGTON — It is incumbent upon Israel and Syria to conclude a successful peace agreement by the end of 1994, as "time is not on the side of the peace process," says Abba Eban, former Israeli foreign minister and ambassador to the United States.

Mr. Eban, now the Shapiro professor of international affairs at George Washington University, commented on the status of the Middle East peace process during a National Press Club luncheon on May 27.

The former diplomat predicted that while there will be setbacks in the peace process, "the reciprocal interests of the negotiating partners are so profound, they won't give up on this effort."

Those reciprocal interests, Mr. Eban underscored, are at the core of the Syrian-Israeli track. In dealing with Syrian President Hafez Assad, Israelis must "believe in his realism not his virtue," he stressed.

Repeating that "time is not on the side of peace," Mr. Eban urged the parties to make 1994 "the year to bring the Israeli-Syrian dialogue to a successful

close." He said that the U.S. "could play a very determined role" in achieving this goal, but did not elaborate further.

Alluding indirectly to recent statements by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Jerusalem and the legal structure of Gaza and Jericho, Mr. Eban said "bombastic threats," while "deplorable," are not decisive to the future of the peace process.

What is decisive to the success of peace, he said, "is what is happening on the ground." The way in which the Palestinian authority maintains order

in Gaza and Jericho, in other words, "is the real testing ground."

Sounding an optimistic note on the future of Jordanian-Israeli relations, Mr. Eban said "the most prospects for concrete regional development" lie in this track. He suggested Jordan and Israel institute a joint authority over the ports of Eilat and Aqaba as well as joint authority of the Dead Sea, in the hopes of exploiting the sea's pharmaceutical resources. Mr. Eban also envisaged Jordanian-Israeli cooperation in the area of tourism.

Algerian teenage girls arrested as Islamic agents

ALGIERS (AP) — Three teenage girls have been arrested as "Islamic agents" for an armed Islamic group, security forces announced Saturday, while the leading independent newspaper said its directors and a reporter have been forbidden to leave Algeria.

It was the first time young girls have been implicated in the more than two-year-old bloody insurgency by Muslim radicals.

The girls were arrested and jailed Wednesday after a search of one of their homes in Ouanougha, near M'sila, in eastern Algeria. Police found an automatic pistol, subversive documents and police license plate numbers, a statement by security forces said.

The girls, aged 17 and 18, said they were "indoctrinated"

by their math teacher, Mr. D'Abou Elyes, who has gone into hiding.

Meanwhile, the top directors of the newspaper El Watan and a journalist who wrote an article about possible changes in the workings of the presidency have been forbidden to leave Algeria, the paper said.

The paper said in a statement that the move was a "first step" and "the jailing of the staff and the author of the article are envisaged."

The free-wheeling Algerian press has been among the victims of the insurgency by Islamic extremists. Nervous officials in the military-backed government have muzzled newspapers censoring some and occasionally arresting reporters, while Islamic extremists

have made journalists a prime target of their attacks.

A dozen journalists have been killed since May 1993. Some 4,000 people — civilians, police and Islamic extremists — have been killed since the start of the insurgency aimed at toppling the government.

Security forces said they killed 23 armed extremists in operations around the country, between Wednesday and Friday.

President Liamine Zerroul, who took office in February, has adopted a dual approach to ending the crisis, using a firm hand against Islamic guerrillas while offering dialogue to fundamentalists who reject violence.

El Watan said it learned of the threatened arrests Friday,

a day after publication of the article concerning "a new diagram for the presidency."

Communications Minister Mohammed Benamar Zerhouni summoned executive editor Tayeb Belghiche and reporter Khaled Messaoudi to his office.

"The article in question has been likened to divulging a national defence secret when it only was a diagram of an administration," the paper said.

If charged and jailed, the journalists risk 10 to 15 years in prison, it added.

In the article, El Watan said that a diagram for changes in running the presidency was the object of "negotiations, even bargaining on the sidelines, among officials in charge of the various structures."

Arafat courts rivals, names ministers in self-rule authority

By Salah Nasrawi
The Associated Press

TUNIS — Yasser Arafat is packing the interim Palestinian governing body with his own people, suggesting that he may plan to concentrate power in former Israeli-occupied zones in his own hands.

The Palestinian National Authority will have legislative, executive and judicial powers in the newly autonomous Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho under the PLO's autonomy agreement with Israel.

A permanent elected body is to take over in the future. But the 24-member Interim Council, headed by Mr. Arafat, could establish a solid power base for the PLO leader and give him an edge when elections are held.

PLO officials disclosed Saturday that Mr. Arafat has named himself interior minister

of the autonomous zones. Fourteen other prominent Palestinians, most of them his allies, have been appointed to other portfolios.

By giving himself the key interior portfolio, Mr. Arafat will control the 9,000-member Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho. Many of the police officers are veteran guerrillas loyal to Mr. Arafat, and many Palestinian see this force as Mr. Arafat's private army.

The interim government will, in theory, hold power only a few months until parliamentary elections are held.

But even as grass-roots resentment swells against Mr. Arafat's handling of the peace negotiations and his autocratic leadership, it would be in his interest to put off the elections while he builds a power base. Ballot, therefore, may not be held for at least a year.

The list of appointees disclosed Saturday includes many senior members of Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fateh faction, the biggest component of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Five other people have been named to the authority but have not been assigned portfolios. The PLO chairman appears to be keeping some seats on the authority vacant as he tries to lure members of other groups to try to make the council more representative.

Key appointments include: Ahmad Qurei'a, the PLO's economic strategist who negotiated the secret accord with Israel, minister of economy and trade.

Nabil Shaath, a Fateh activist who was a key negotiator in the autonomy talks, minister of planning and international cooperation.

— Intisar Al Wazir, the

only woman so far given a portfolio, minister of social welfare. She is the widow of Mr. Arafat's military chief and strategist, Khalil Al Wazir, assassinated by Israeli commandos in Tunis in April 1988.

Saeb Erekat, a Fateh official from Jericho who was deputy leader of the Palestinian delegation to Washington peace talks and critic of the autonomy accord, minister of local government.

Freih Abu Medeen, a prominent Fateh official and head of the bar association in Gaza, minister of justice.

Faisal Hussein, a senior Fateh leader in the West Bank and de facto Arab leader in Jerusalem, minister without portfolio with special responsibility for determining the status of Jerusalem.

Absent from the list of appointees was Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for

the peace delegation. Ms. Ashrawi has strongly criticised the autonomy accord and has refused repeated requests by Mr. Arafat to sit on the national authority.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Ms. Ashrawi has established the Palestine Independent Commission for Human Rights, which will lobby for democratic reforms in the Palestinian entity and combat corruption, widespread within the PLO.

Mr. Arafat has had extreme difficulty finding qualified people to sit on the authority, and creating a balance between his longtime allies in the exiled PLO leadership and Palestinians who endured the 27-year Israeli occupation.

He has also had to accommodate other power

centres — such as Palestinian clans, political factions, and secular and religious groups.

PLO sources said Mr. Arafat dispatched an envoy to Syria on Saturday in a last-ditch effort to persuade hard-line Palestinian groups based there to join the authority despite their opposition to the accord with Israel.

The leadership of the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the PLO's second-largest faction, reportedly is contemplating doing that to pursue its opposition to Mr. Arafat from within.

A delegation from Hamas, an Islamic fundamentalist faction based in Gaza and the West Bank, was due in Tunis this weekend after secret contacts with Mr. Arafat. It has demanded five seats on the authority, but Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat has only offered two.

Iran warns U.K. over reported expulsion

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Britain should expect a strong reaction from Iran if reports that it expelled an Iranian diplomat were confirmed, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) said Saturday.

IRNA said the British Foreign Office's refusal to comment on a press report that Britain ordered the expulsion of an Iranian diplomat was "a new provocation on the part of the British government against Islamic Iran."

"Experts... say in the event the report by the Guardian should be true the British government might have to expect a similar action by Iran," the agency said.

"Iran-Britain watchers say under the circumstances any hostile action by the British government towards the Islamic Republic may entail a stronger reaction by Iran which the Britons do not consider to be in their best interest."

The Guardian newspaper said Saturday that the foreign office was keeping the expulsion secret to avoid any retaliation by Tehran.

The Foreign Office refused to comment on the report. A spokesman merely said a meeting took place Thursday between Douglas Hogg, Foreign Office minister of state, and Iran's Charge d'Affaires Gholamreza Ansari.

But British media quoted officials as "indicating" that the two countries agreed to say nothing about what had happened.

Mr. Hogg summoned Mr. Ansari last month to tell him of Britain's displeasure at reported covert contacts between Iran and the IRA, which is fighting a guerrilla war to force Britain from Northern Ireland.

In reply Iran called in Britain's top diplomat in Tehran to dismiss Britain's accusations. British officials said at the time they would maintain their vigilance and "judge the Iranian government by its actions and not its words."

The diplomatic row further clouded the two countries' ties, which hit a low over a death sentence for blasphemy imposed by Iran's late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini against British writer Salman Rushdie for his novel The Satanic Verses.

Iran broke off relations with Britain in 1989 over the issue. Britain reopened its mission in Tehran soon after resuming diplomatic relations at charge d'affaires level in September 1990.

Britain's opposition Labour Party Saturday demanded an explanation of why Mr. Ansari was reportedly being expelled.

Tough times for Palestinian policemen

By Wafa Amr
Reuters

GAZA — Two weeks since taking over from Israel in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian policemen face a tough time enforcing the PLO's peace deal among a people used to standing up to men in uniform.

After 27 years of Israeli occupation, some Palestinians are quick to accuse officials of "repression," of being Israeli "agents" or "tools". The strip is home to nearly a million Palestinians.

"Some officers have been unable to make the balance between implementing the peace deal and the needs of the people hungry for freedom after 27 years of Israeli repression," a senior Palestinian security official told Reuters.

"Security arrangements in the deal are harsh. But there are ways to implement them without clashing with our people."

Palestinians complain about having to wait in line to see officials or being turned back without an appointment. They demand access to officials they regard as their own representatives.

Security officials counter it's hard enforcing the peace deal while being sensitive to people's needs. They say the absence of defined laws and regulations make their task even more difficult.

"Theoretically we should be carrying out our duties according to the Egyptian laws which were in force before June 5, 1967, but practically there is no defined law and we are implementing the PLO's laws, if there are any," said a security official. Israel captured Gaza from Egypt in 1967.

Many Palestinian policemen have been fighters and army men stationed in Arab countries under the harshest conditions. For the first time they are dealing with their own people.

"We too are still in a state of shock and have not yet adapted to the new situation. We need time and mistakes will occur," said one senior security official.

Officials expect more problems in the poverty-stricken Gaza Strip when policemen try to disarm people. Groups opposing the PLO's deal with Israel have vowed not to turn in their weapons.

"Right now we have prevented people from carrying arms in the streets, but later we will ask them to register arms and hand them over to us," said a security official.

Rumours abound over why police arrested Hani Abed, a journalist from the rejectionist Islamic Jihad movement, last week. Security officials refuse to say why.

Some suspect police merely wanted to flex their muscles. Islamic Jihad opposes the peace deal giving Palestinians self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Abed's sisters and brother stood outside the office of Gaza's security commander, Brigadier General Nasser Yousef, arguing with guards who refused to let them see him.

"Two weeks in Gaza and they already started arresting people. They are Israeli repression tools," Mr. Abed's sister Itimad said while being ordered to leave the security headquarters which used to be an Israeli prison.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Starcom 3/13
18:30 Beaumont
18:41 L'Ecole Des Fans
19:00 News in French
19:15 The Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Nanny
20:55 Jordanique
21:10 Equinox
22:00 News in English
22:30 Black Powder
23:10 Top Cops

PRAYER TIMES

03:55 Fajr
05:27 (Sunrise) Duha
12:35 Noon
16:14 Asr
19:39 Maghreb
21:11 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatfeh, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63744
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Trinitarian Church Tel. 623346

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Temperatures will drop slightly with winds northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 20 / 30
Aqaba 23 / 36
Deserts 17 / 35
Jordan Valley 22 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 39 Humidity readings:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 12 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukheles Halasa 819220
Dr. Jamad Ibrahim 847351
Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
Dr. Khalid M'addi 743500
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 770336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Saloun pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 647632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Ak Khalili 273099
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Harzallah 980875
Najib pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Blood Bank 77121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 658830
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 010230
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 772111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Al-Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
Al-Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mathas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 64471/4
Shmeisani Hospital 64471/4
University Hospital 643945
Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 664127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 642248/50
Amal Hospital 674153

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)983561
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)983732
New Delta (RU) 1745
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)94990
IRBID:
Prince Basmal Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)528245, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Riyadh (RJ)
10:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:05 New Delhi (RJ)
11:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:55 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Bangkok (RJ)
13:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
08:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:30 London (RJ)
12:45 Doha (RJ)
13:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
13:45 Damascus (RJ)
14:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
14:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Istanbul (TA)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
11:25 Cairo (ME)
12:00 Khartoum (SD)
14:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
16:45 Doha (GF)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:35 Cairo (MS)
11:00 Khartoum (SD)
12:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
19:45 Dubai (EM)
01:30 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
08:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:30 London (RJ)
12:45 Doha (RJ)
13:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
13:45 Damascus (RJ)
14:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
14:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Istanbul (TA)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
11:25 Cairo (ME)
12:00 Khartoum (SD)
14:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
16:45 Doha (GF)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 550 / 650
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 180 / 100
Carrot 380 / 280
Cauliflower 200 / 100
Cucumbers (large) 180 / 120
Cucumbers (small) 180 / 120
Eggplant 230 / 150
Garlic 600 / 400
Lemon 340 / 240
Marrow (large) 300 / 200
Marrow (small) 300 / 200
Mushrooms 400 / 200
Orange 170 / 100
Onion (dry) 360 / 260
Pepper (hot) 240 / 140
Pepper (sweet) 340 / 240
Potato 450 / 350
Peaches 700 / 550
Tomato 120 / 60
String beans 250 / 180
Watermelon 500 / 400
Vine Leaves 600 / 500

Regent reviews bilateral ties with Qatari, S. Korean officials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Sunday reviewed with Qatari Minister of Finance, Economy and Trade, Mohammed Bin Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani means of further enhancing bilateral relations in various fields.

The Qatari minister conveyed the best wishes of Qatari leader Sheikh Khalifah Bin Hamad to His Majesty King Hussein.

The audience was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Bin Zeid, King Hussein's political advisor Marwan Al Qasbi, Finance Minister Sami Gammoh and the Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Nasser Abdul Aziz Al Nasser.

The Qatari minister is taking part in the 17th Ministerial Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), which started here Sunday.

Also Sunday, the Regent,

reiterated Jordan's firm position towards the establishment of a just and durable peace in the region, in accordance with international resolutions.

Prince Mohammad was speaking during an audience at the Royal Court with the South Korean President's envoy, Su Ji-Park, who delivered to the Regent a message from President Kim Young Sam to King Hussein.

The message deals with bilateral relations and means of furthering them.

The Korean envoy praised Jordan's role in maintaining peace and stability in the region and its endeavours to establish a just and comprehensive peace.

The audience was attended by Prince Ra'ed, Mr. Al Qasbi, Minister of State Fawaz Abu Ghanam and Korean Ambassador to Jordan Hahn Choo Lee.

On Sunday Prime Minister

Abdul Salam Majali also received Sheikh Mohammad of Qatar and the accompanying delegation and discussed with them means of broadening scopes of bilateral cooperation in the economic, commercial and industrial fields.

Mr. Park of Korea was also received Sunday by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan.

The minister urged South Korea to play an active role in a drive to revitalise Jordan's economy, according to the Associated Press (AP).

Mr. Hassan said he hoped to see South Korea "trade more actively" with Jordan and increase its imports of phosphates and potash fertilisers from the Kingdom, AP said.

The news agency added that Mr. Hassan urged South Korean entrepreneurs to explore opportunities for investment and joint venture projects in the country.

Majali details Jordan's peace efforts, democratic march to U.S. scholars

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday stressed Jordan's concern for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region and reviewed the Kingdom's role in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Addressing a 12-member delegation of the Fulbright Foundation, currently on a visit to Jordan, Dr. Majali said the country has played a major and effective role in the peace process since the convening of the 1991 Madrid Middle East Peace Conference.

The Prime Minister said Jordan has always extended support to the Palestinian people to enable them to regain their legitimate rights on their national soil.

He stressed the unique brotherly relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and noted Jordan's support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Dr. Majali reviewed the root causes and stages of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the international circumstances prevailing during each historical era, until the fall of the Soviet Union and the emergence of a new international order.

The Prime Minister briefed the delegation on Jordan's democratic experience, saying that it has become a source of pride for every Jordanian citizen.

He dismissed any relation between fundamentalism or extremism and Islamic law or Islamic thought, saying that such terms, which are sometimes used by the West, are incorrect and erroneous expressions. Dr. Majali underscored the role played by Islam and Muslims in enriching human civilisation.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tai.

The Fulbright Foundation team also met Sunday with the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi and Taher Masri for discussions on the Middle East situation.

Fuad Suleiman, the head of the visiting delegation from the U.S. said the group's visit aimed at gaining close-hand knowledge of Jordan's democratic experiment and discussing the progress in the peace process and problems impeding a final solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Dr. Suleiman said the delegation was also eager to learn more about modern Islam in its true image and the extent of Islam's impact on Jordanian life.

Messrs. Lawzi and Masri reviewed Jordanian-U.S. relations and spoke in detail about the situation in the Middle East region.

According to a U.S. embassy official here, the delegation groups university professors teaching at several colleges in the United States.



IN RECOGNITION: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday receives the Jordanian Cardiac Society's (JCS) trophy from JCS President Youssef Qoussas, director of the Royal Medical Services. Dr. Majali opened the association's second conference on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo).

riching human civilisation.

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Zu'bi relieved of Parliament post

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The General Secretary of Parliament Saleh Al Zu'bi has been relieved of his duties and appointed an advisor at the prime ministry, informed sources told the Jordan Times Sunday.

The sources said the Cabinet decided to remove Dr. Zu'bi from his post during a session Saturday, but has not yet agreed on a replacement for him.

Dr. Zu'bi who had earlier worked as an ambassador, took up his post at Parliament in 1990.

Sources said among the candidates to replace Dr. Zu'bi are Helmi Al Sarabi, a legal advisor at the prime ministry and Hakam Kheir, who is the official spokesman of Al Watan Party.

Mr. Kheir's affiliation with Al Watan, however, could

weaken his chances to land the job as it is preferred that the general secretary of Parliament is an independent figure, the sources said.

"We hope that the newcomer would be able to redress the deterioration in support services provided to deputies by the general secretariat," one lawmaker told the Jordan Times.

The deputy said there has been a noticeable regression in the quality of administrative services awarded to lawmakers, which reflected on their ability to deal effectively with issues of concern to the public.

Other parliamentary sources echoed the lawmaker in expressing dissatisfaction with the performance of the general secretariat, saying they hoped the change would bring about an improvement in the services it is supposed to extend to lawmakers.



Hamdi Tabbaa
NEW PRESIDENT The Jordanian Businessmen's Association Sunday elected a new administrative committee headed by Hamdi Tabbaa. Mr. Tabbaa, a former minister of Industry and Trade, replaces President Ibrahim Al Zein, who died more than a week ago. The society's general assembly elected Fakhri Bilbeisi as vice president, Farouq Al Azzeh as treasurer and Thabet Al Taher as secretary.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Danish film entitled "Pelle Le Conquerant" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Installation entitled "Ephemerics of a Circle" by artist Noël Favrelière at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luwethbeh at 5:00 p.m. (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by disabled children at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 20 Jordanian and Iraqi artists (including Widad Orfali, Hussein Da'seh, Waddah Al Ward, Adnan Al Hila and Mahmoud Hussein) at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uthaina (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Exhibition by 46 artists entitled "He, Bonjour Monsieur La Fontaine" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by artist Itab Hreth and another exhibition of ceramics by Sajida Al Mashalki at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451, 652823).

Crown Prince calls on ESCWA nations 'to create a new pattern' of relations

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday urged all countries of Western Asia "to create a new pattern of both bilateral and multilateral political, economic and social relations" in order to be well-equipped to deal with the worldwide "rampant" of regional and political blocs.

Deputising for Prince Hassan at the 17th Ministerial Session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), which opened here Sunday, Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz said, "in addition, there is the peace process currently unfolding between the Arabs and Israel, the results of which have gradually begun to take concrete form."

Stressing the vitality of the member countries' cooperation in this progressive stage, the minister also emphasised the importance of exploiting energy sources, increasing joint economic operations among the region's nations preserving the environment and the proper exploitation of the region's limited water resources. ESCWA has 13 member states situated in the Middle East, and the commission's

headquarters has been temporarily situated in Amman after having moved from Baghdad following the Gulf war. Proposals from Jordan, Lebanon and Qatar to host the commission on a permanent basis will be studied.

On the meeting's agenda for this session, the permanent headquarters of the commission will be agreed upon by the heads of delegations of ESCWA member states.

Speaking on the subject during recesses in Sunday's meeting, participants expressed fear of the political implications of the commission's headquarters' next location saying that issues of human development are being highly politicised.

"Politicising such matters can be destructive rather than constructive at this critical stage of political instability in the region," one participant told the Jordan Times.

The ESCWA officer, who preferred anonymity, said that headquarters should not be located in Iraq under a dictatorial regime. He added that Palestine, as a possibility, is out of the question, because the picture of the nature of the new Palestinian authority is "still dim."

During Sunday's seminar, heads of delegations convened



Participants to the 17th Ministerial Session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Sunday attend the opening events (Petra photo).

a closed meeting to discuss organisational questions. Also, the president, two vice chairmen, and a rapporteur for the session were elected.

Dr. Fariz will head the 3-day meeting which is attended by heads of delegations of ESCWA member states, heads of diplomatic missions and rep-

resentatives of international and Arab organisations.

After the provisional agenda for the session was approved by participants in the morning session, Sunday's afternoon session dealt with a report by ESCWA's Executive Secretary Sabah Bakjaji on the activities

of the committee.

The report addressed the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 and was followed up by discussions on the action on the resolutions of the commission adopted at its 16th session.

AFM warns of illicit trading

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Financial Market (AFM) Sunday issued a statement cautioning the public that it is illegal to conduct any dealings in shares outside the AFM and with companies which have not yet completed official registration with the authorities.

obtained the final approval for their operations, said the statement.

Any share transactions conducted with companies not yet formally registered with the AFM are null and void as they contravene the AFM rules and the Public Companies Law of 1989, added the statement.

According to the AFM law, a shareholding company can begin operations only when it has paid 50 per cent of the par value of its shares and fulfilled the other requirements, and share trading can only be effected at the AFM, said the statement.

Also, according to the law, no registered shareholding company can conduct any transfer of property of any amounts of shares from one party to another without the AFM's approval, it added.

In light of these facts and in order to safeguard the rights of buyers and sellers of shares, the AFM reaffirmed that it would not be held responsible for any dealings conducted in violation of its rules and regulations, or damages incurred as a result of such illegal transactions.

Conference to assess democratic process

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre (UJRC), in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, will open a conference Tuesday at the Forte Grand Hotel on "Jordan's Democratic Process — Contemporary Realities and Future Prospects."

According to UJRC Director Hani Hourani, "the reason for convening such a conference at this time is to make an assessment of Jordan's democratisation since 1989 and to analyse the likely impact of a number of domestic and regional variables on its future course."

In an effort to reach a clear assessment of how the country's liberalisation process has affected Jordan's civil and political societies, Mr. Hourani said UJRC has commissioned a wide array of papers covering the government; parliament, the judiciary and human rights, political parties, women, professional and cultural associations and the media.

To give a wider context to the discussion, the conference is to also cover several issues which will impact on the shape and direction of Jordan's political development, such as the peace process, political Islam, and economic reform.

The conference is scheduled to conclude on the afternoon of June 2 with a roundtable discussion, which will focus on possible future directions for democratic development in the Kingdom, said a UJRC statement Sunday.

Participants in the conference include a large number of leading figures from Jordan's civil and political societies, including: former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat; Information Minister Jawad Anani; Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taher Masri; Upper House senators Abdul Latif Arabiyat and Kamel Abu

Jaber, Deputy Samir Habashneh, leading political party members Abdul Hadi Majali (Al Ahd), Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh (Yakatha), Abdullah Akalieh and Mohammad Oweidah (Islamic Action Front) and Issa Madanat (Democratic Socialist Party). Women activists Asma Khader and Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, journalists Musa Kilani, Suleiman Qdah and Abdullah Hassanat and economist Fahed Al Fanek.

There will also be several regional and international participants.

Mr. Hourani said he hopes that by bringing together individuals with such a wide range of experiences and political and social agendas, the conference will generate a constructive dialogue and contribute meaningfully to the important national debate on the future needs of democracy in Jordan.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

- Premier checks progress on cancer centre**
AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday reviewed with representatives of groups concerned with the establishment of Al Amal Cancer Centre progress on the work at the centre. During a meeting at the Prime Ministry, attended by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas, Director of Royal Medical Services Lt.-Gen. Youssef Qoussas, University of Jordan Hospital Director Samih Abu Al Ragheb and President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies Abdullah Al Khatib Dr. Majali urged the parties concerned to speed up work on the centre in preparation for its opening before the end of the year.
- Egyptian, Sudanese officials visit Jordan Valley**
AMMAN (Petra) — Agricultural engineers from the Egyptian and Sudanese ministries of agriculture, currently in Jordan to attend a training course, Sunday visited the southern Jordan Valley region and were acquainted with agricultural activities and projects carried out by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA). They also visited the Arab Potash factory and were briefed on its establishment and production capacity.

In the name of God

Open letter

Subject: Announcement about a very useful scientific discovery

Addressed to: the Director General of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation UNESCO (General Secretariat) to: The Cultural Attachés at embassies in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to: The international cultural and scientific organisations concerned with research and humanities.

I am very pleased to announce that as a Jordanian writer, researcher and philosopher, I Abdul Latif Irsheid Shdeifat, am quite ready to present and expound my new scientific discovery which I have called: the new applied and analytical psychology. I will be pleased to attend any seminar or take part in a workshop or scientific or cultural conference to be organised for the purpose of this discovery to be held under the title of "An Answer To Every Question" within the framework of the new applied and analytical psychology. May I point out that the following parties could benefit from this science: educational institutions, social development departments, scientists, sociologists, psychologists, the media, the police, politicians and various managements.

NOTICE

I regret to say that I am the only professor of this science in the world as I am responsible for its discovery and its sound principles and I can prove its benefits and feasibility. This science has escaped the eyes of the world and was not formally recognised until I published three booklets and a book about this science in 1981 in Baghdad. Several years later, I have read an article in a newspaper reporting that western Germany had set up a special institute to teach this science based on the same scientific references on which I had based my principles for this science and my studies and research work. I have based my research work on a branch of science related to astronomy and astrology called the secrets of the horoscope — and this is an international scientific analysis designed to determine the nature of the personality of each person mentally, psychologically and behaviourally and persons' faculties and potentials and their preferences, their mood or their way of thinking through analysing different phenomena and events, as well as in relation with the persons' soul and matters related to man's life. This science has real potential of determining the degrees of persons' successes in education, work, profession, specialisation etc... and can help people determine matters related to suitable marriages or the most suitable business partners or friends. It can also help direct man's attitudes with regard to business and public relations and can help define the proper circumstances and the climates that can ensure successes. I would like to remind the reader that this is the third time in which I address the world about this science in the Jordan Times because it is printed in English — a world language — so that the report about the scientific discovery can spread fast since it is a major scientific breakthrough and because it provides a genuine and sound guideline for self-assessment and assessment of other persons' knowledge.

All my publications have run out and I cannot find anything left otherwise I would have translated their contents and sent you a copy.

However, the last word is for the science itself because it is the main reference which will reveal my vast experience theoretically and practically and project my creativity in this field.

For this reason I have decided to again advertise my discovery pointing out its practical benefits hoping it would attract your attention so that it can be of benefit for all people.

Thank you

28.5.94

my address: c/o the post office of Manshiat Bani Hassan — Mafraq, Jordan.

الدراسة الإنجليزية الجديدة
NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 154 KHALDA - AMMAN
TEL: 827151, 827152, 827153, 827154 - FAX: 816894

The New English School, Khalda, Amman

Applications are invited from experienced, qualified teachers of (a) English language and/or literature and of (b) Economics and Business Studies to take up appointment at the start of the 1994-1995 academic year (mid August). Proven experience of teaching to I.G.C.S.E and/or 'A' level is required for both vacancies.

Post (a)
The successful applicant is required to teach English language to I.G.C.S.E. and English literature to the same level. Some teaching will also be required in Grade 9.

Post (b)
The ability to offer Business Studies to I.G.C.S.E. and Economics to both I.G.C.S.E. and A level is required.

Applicants for both posts should be able to demonstrate the ability to work as part of a team and to promote their subject specialism to a high profile within the school curriculum. Also, candidates will be expected to play a full role in pastoral work and in the thriving area of the school's extra-curricular activities programme.

Interested candidates should apply by letter, enclosing a curriculum vitae together with the names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers of two professional referees. Application packages should be sent to the Director General (Mrs. Ophelia Bishouty), New English School, P.O. Box 154, Khalda, Amman, by Wednesday, 8th June at the latest. Candidates selected to come to interview will be notified as soon as possible after this date.

Jordan Times

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ESCWA at home here

ON top of the agenda of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) ministerial meeting that opened in Amman yesterday is deciding on a permanent location of this U.N. regional organisation. In addition to Amman, Baghdad, Beirut and Doha are vying for hosting ESCWA after the commission shifted headquarters first from Beirut to Baghdad and then Jordan temporarily in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and war. The commission moved out of Beirut in the middle of the Lebanese civil war in 1976 on a temporary basis and then "permanently" to the Iraqi capital only to be forced out again following the occupation of Kuwait.

For all intents and purposes the scars of the Lebanese conflict have yet to be effectively healed as evidenced by the recurrent cycle of violence in that Arab country. To be sure Lebanon has made great strides to recover from the 15-year old civil conflict and is hopefully well on its way to reconstruct its infrastructure on all fronts. But while we wish Lebanon and its people a full recovery, the fact remains that the healing process there has not yet reached the level that its people are aspiring to.

Baghdad on the other hand is no longer a tenable alternative in view of its continued isolation as a result of the invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

This leaves Amman as the most convenient location for ESCWA since Jordan has demonstrated already that it has the right political and economic climate to continue to host ESCWA. There is a notable stability in the country accompanied by progress on all fronts. The infrastructure in Jordan is well built, making our capital an ideal location for any international or regional organisation, such as ESCWA. Besides being a safe, clean and well serviced capital, Amman happens to be also centrally located and easily accessible to the 13 members of the organisation. This is in addition to the fact that considerable expense has been invested already to house the commission, which can ill afford periodic transfers from one country to the other.

Surely the ministers who are attending the current session would want to deal with other substantive issues than just the location. Above all they must be concerned with how to elevate the organisation into an action-oriented regional institution where the ratio between bureaucratic expenses and the overall operational costs is kept at a sensible level. The scope of coordination between the commission and the UNDP and the Arab League's Economic Council must also be enhanced to avoid duplication of efforts. Above all, the commission must be allowed an opportunity to handle effectively many pressing economic issues facing the area, especially in the wake of the positive developments in the region and the promise of peace for all its peoples.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily said Sunday that while certain Arab countries are trying hard to bring about reconciliation between the northern and southern parts of Yemen, other Arabs are trying to fuel the fighting in that embattled nation. Some Arabs have an interest in internationalising the conflict between the north and south as they do not wish to see unity in place far longer, said the paper. This situation, said the paper, can only open the door wide for the leaders of the so-called new world order to tamper with the destiny of the Yemeni people who firmly oppose such intervention in their own affairs. What some Arabs are doing now is similar to their behaviour that led to foreign intervention in the Gulf crisis that should have been contained within the Arab World and settled through Arab mediation efforts alone, added the paper. Not only did certain Arab parties succeed in bringing tragedies to the Arab World through their irresponsible actions during the Gulf crisis, they also paralysed all attempts towards ending the divisions among Arab states four years after the Gulf crisis ended, said the paper. The paper warned against any intervention in the Yemeni crisis by the United Nations Security Council, stressing that the only solution to the conflict can come through the will of the various Yemeni political groups.

Human Rights File

Turkey's reforms promise end to turmoil

TURKISH Prime Minister Tansu Ciller unveiled a belated series of democratisation policies and measures last week to improve her country's human rights record and image that have been strained by persistent allegations about ineffective individual human rights instruments and the denial of the Kurdish minority's ethnic and cultural rights. The Kurdish problem in Turkey is perhaps the most formidable of all domestic and foreign issues that Ankara has been facing over several decades. In this sense it overshadows other equally important human rights causes in the country since many capitals especially in Western Europe have consistently used the Kurdish card to condemn Turkey's human rights record. The attempt by Prime Minister Ciller to do something meaningful about this domestic and international issue, therefore, deserves recognition and requires analysis. The resolution of the Kurdish question in Turkey will certainly end the bloody war that has been waging for so many years between the Turkish armed forces and separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas.

Mrs. Ciller is now proposing the introduction of amendments to no less than 10 articles in the Constitution of the land which would also grant Turkey's Kurds "ethnic and cultural rights," on condition that these rights would not prejudice the national unity of the country. This is a giant step towards the recognition of the Kurds as a distinct ethnic minority with cultural rights. It could bring the country closer to meeting international human rights standards as reflected in several U.N. conventions notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The Turkish prime minister deserves to be commended for this bold step which can never be fully understood or appreciated except against the backdrop of decades long denial of Kurdish rights. It is expected, of course, that some Turkish political leaders would regard this human rights move as fraught with untold dangers threatening the national unity of the republic. There are Turkish voices that see in this the seeds for the birth of a Kurdish entity that could mushroom into something alarming for the future of the country.

However, a more sober look at Mrs. Ciller's bid to tackle the "Kurdish challenge" would reveal that Ankara is in fact on

the right course and has everything to gain. First of all, Turkey has always denied the existence of the Kurds, as "people" on the strength of the argument that the Turkish nationality is not based on race, ethnic background or religion. To be a Turk, the world was often reminded, is just like being an American of a different colour, race, national or ethnic origin. That was the predominant perspective within Turkish official circles. The recognition of the Kurds as a different people, it was feared, would only open the Pandora box for other minorities in the country to claim their own separate identities.

While these Turkish fears can be understood they nevertheless run counter to contemporary human rights trends as reflected in the ICCPR and elsewhere in international human rights law. There is now more awareness than ever that most countries are in fact multi-national, multi-racial or multi-ethnic states that are bound together by common history, geography and shared values and interests. Canada, for example, prides itself on being a multi-ethnic multi-religious and multi-racial country. However, the national aspirations of the French-speaking province of Quebec are being taken into consideration. The U.S., long described as a melting pot, is now giving way to accepting the fact that it is a multi-diverse society in which everybody blends in a salad bowl. In the U.S. blacks have resurrected their African roots and Hispanics are demanding more and more linguistic, cultural and political rights within the framework of the country as a whole. Name any country from the Far East to the Far West and from the far North to the far South, and you will readily notice the rebirth of sub-national sentiments. This is the new spirit and there is no way of stopping it permanently or effectively short of resort to perpetual armed suppression that cannot be expected to prevent the inevitable from occurring.

Ankara has little to fear from its recent step. Such a policy change would enable Turkey to become party to several human rights treaties that it should have signed and ratified a long time ago. Turkey portrays itself as part of the Western world and has repeatedly made a bid to join the EEC. There is no way that Ankara can be accepted in the Western club without meeting its minimal standards on human rights and this much the Turkish prime minister has recognised the

minute she stepped into her office. Granting the Kurds of Turkey their cultural and other linguistic rights would seem the pivotal in changing the overall image of Turkey to ratify the better. I see now the door wide open for more than 120 ICCPR which has been ratified already by more than 120 nations of the international community. Ankara's accession to such a broad based human rights instrument could also serve the needs of the nation not only in terms of image reparation but also in deploying this very convention to preserve its cherished national unity.

Article 27 of the ICCPR is most helpful for Mrs. Ciller. It reads as follows: "In those states in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language." This provision which could be the basis for granting the Kurds of Turkey their cultural and linguistic rights has been amplified and interpreted by the Human Rights Committee which is the quasi-judicial international organ that monitors the implementation of the Covenant as to exclude the division of any country when such rights are recognised and implemented.

This should be consoling to Ankara. Even more relevant is the Committee ruling that the rights recognised under Article 27 do not include the right to self-determination which is a completely separate right not covered by this article. The danger point for Turkey could arise if the Kurds of Turkey succeed in their claim that they constitute a "people" and not a minority. Yet even on this potential flash point, the ICCPR as currently constructed would not tolerate the dismemberment of any state party by virtue of the enjoyment of the right of self-determination by a "people" within a state party.

This is indeed a vexing issue that the greater majority of the state parties to the ICCPR treat most delicately. As far as I know, none would yield to the disfigurement of their state and insist on interpreting the terms and provisions of the Covenant as absolutely ruling out the secession of any part of the country from central authority. On balance, therefore, Ankara has little to fear and a great deal to gain from its recent change of course.

By Graham Usher

WHEN THE Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel peace agreement was struck last September, many commentators believed that the moment had arrived for the eventual demise of Palestine's Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. This was predicated on a view which held that Hamas' rise in the occupied territories was largely by default of the PLO's fall. Palestinian Islamists — so the argument ran — had garnered popular support as a kind of epiphenomenon, on the one hand of mounting Palestinian frustrations due to the impasse of the Madrid peace process and on the other, of the PLO's increasingly serious financial crisis. With the Oslo accord, however, not only had the PLO's political hegemony been restored this time with Israel's blessing as "the sole legitimate representative" of the Palestinian people; perhaps more important, the agreement would replenish the movement's coffers and so lubricate the networks of support and patronage through which "legitimacy" could be consolidated in Palestinian society.

Six months down the road, the argument requires some revision. Hamas' recent military actions against Israeli civilians in Afula and Hadera in "revenge" for the Hebron massacre have pushed the Israeli government to the brink of its worst crisis since Oslo, with polls showing more Israelis against the agreement than for it for the first time.

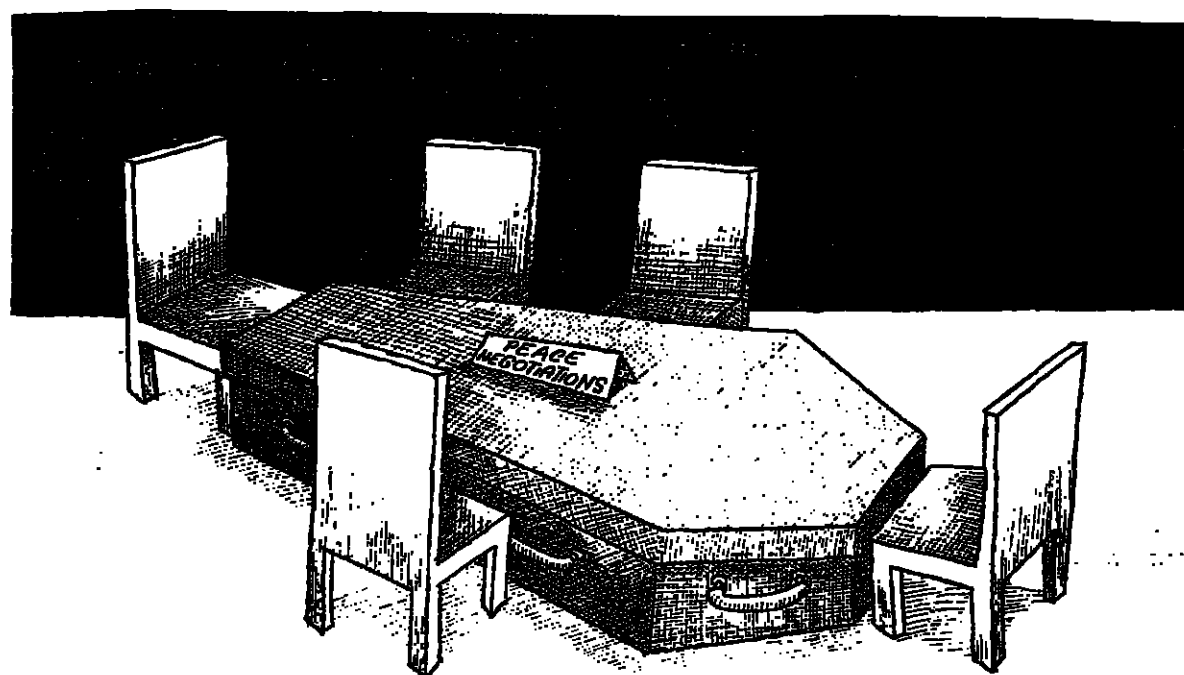
What is the political import of Hamas' actions? Are they desperate acts of last resort by an organisation in its death throes, crippled by massive Israeli repression and politically side-lined by the unfolding and irreversible reality of Gaza-Jericho? Or are they the latest turn in a finely calibrated political and military policy which, since the agreement, has been tactically virtuoso but strategically consistent in pursuit of an entirely feasible goal — one which seeks neither the destruction of the PLO nor of Israel, but rather a place at the table of self-rule?

The gun

Hamas' first reactions to the Oslo accords were of absolute rejection couched in terms of high treason. "We will mobilise Palestinians in the occupied territories to destroy the agreement by force," railed a communique in September, while West Bank Islamist Sheikh Hamad Bilawi issued a religious ruling in October calling for death to all those participating in negotiations with Israel.

On the ground, however, Hamas' military actions were more circumspect, targeting soldiers and settlers inside the territories with no attacks on Palestinian political figures, no matter how fervent their endorsement of the accords. In December, Hamas declared that it had killed 11 soldiers and four settlers since the "conspiracy of Washington", while the movement's spiritual guide, Ahmad Yassin, let it be known in the Hebrew press that he "didn't approve of

Hamas seeks a place at the table



M. KAHIL

attacking Israeli women, children and elderly."

In the words of Israeli General Aharon Yariv, Hamas "understands that the aim of any military operation is political." And the aim since September has been less to scupper Oslo completely than to draw out its implementation, working on the accurate prognosis that the longer the delay the greater the haemorrhage of PLO support.

Actions like Hamas' ambush in December of Colonel Mintz, coordinator of the Israeli army's undercover operations in the Gaza Strip, or of Shin Bet operative Noam Cohen, assassinated by one of his own informers in Ramallah in February, not only generate huge political kudos on the Palestinian street they succeed in putting the fear of death into the Israeli security establishment. But if Hamas' military targets are Israeli, their political sights are set firmly on the PLO leadership, and particularly Mr. Arafat. Given the loathing with which most Palestinians view the Shin Bet and undercover units, no Palestinian leader in their right mind could possibly condemn the killing of either Mr. Mintz or Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Arafat pointedly refrained from doing so. His problem is that whereas for the Israelis silence is tantamount to complicity, for Palestinians any public disavowal suggests collaboration, and fuels speculation about future PLO-Israeli "coordination" on security as adumbrated in the Declaration of Principles. Mr. Arafat is thus damned if he speaks and damned if he doesn't.

A similar logic of war as politics by other means obtains with Hamas' actions in the wake of the Hebron massacre, and particularly their hitting Israeli civilians inside the Green Line. In a statement after the Afula killings, Hamas said that a cessation of the attacks was "conditional on Israeli settlers quickly leaving the West Bank and Gaza," a sentiment

that polls show 88 per cent of Palestinians in the territories concur with. The main difference with Hamas' "living martyrs" tactic — the suicide missions responsible for the Afula and Hadera killings — is that it is designed to put the squeeze on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as much as Mr. Arafat by whipping up Israeli opinion. According to a survey published recently in Yediot Aharonot, 70 per cent of Israelis would consider "autonomy a failure if terrorists continue to murder Jews."

Mr. Rabin knows that Mr. Arafat is ultimately powerless to stop Hamas, not only because of "internal constraints" but because such impotence is written into the accords, where it states categorically that Israel retains responsibility for "external security" and for "Israeli civilians" in the West Bank and Gaza. Hamas knows this too. "If Hamas launched an attack against Israelis in Gaza during the autonomy, this would undoubtedly cause problems for the PLO leadership," one Islamist told MEI. "But what if Hamas were to hit targets in Tel Aviv? What has the PLO to do with the protection of Tel Aviv?"

Mr. Rabin's choice in the face of this comes easily to him. He closes off the territories, rounds up hundreds of Hamas "suspects" and launches massive punitive raids like the one that claimed the death of four "terrorists" and an innocent bystander in Hebron on March 22. Yet each successive clamp-down not only chips away at the PLO's rapidly diminishing base in the territories, but also at Mr. Rabin's own conviction that "only Arafat can rule the self-rule."

The political meaning of Hamas' military policy since Oslo was best encapsulated by one of their most astute watchers — Israeli journalist Danny Rubinstein. "Hamas terrorist activities contain two main political messages,"

he wrote in *Ha'aretz* on Dec. 21. "The first — to Arafat and the PLO — is do not dare ignore us; the second — to the state of Israel — is that negotiations with the PLO do not constitute the final word and that Hamas must also be taken into account."

The olive branch

If Hamas' military policy has been a considered one of spectacular hits designed to pack the maximum populist punch, a similar foresight marks its handling of relations with the PLO, and especially Fatah. However rejectionist the public face, Hamas' stance towards the other PLO factions since last September has been essentially conciliatory, signalling that the movement is fully cognizant of the new political realities thrown up by self-rule.

In the immediate aftermath of the agreement, the greatest fear on the Palestinian street was that its passing would lead to civil strife between the Palestinian movement's nationalist and Islamist wings. A deft mix of clear political direction and discipline on the part of both leaderships has kept this nightmare scenario largely at bay. In September PLO and Hamas prisoners signed a pact banning inter-Palestinian violence to resolve "political disagreements over the accord", while Hamas declared that the job of Islamist leaders "is to fight against any confrontation between supporters and opponents of the PLO-Israeli agreement". Apart from one or two skirmishes at street level, this line of peaceful coexistence has been adhered to, even in relation to potentially explosive issues such as collaborator killings and the role of the Palestinian police.

In fact, from the moment Mr. Arafat shook Mr. Rabin's hand most Islamists knew that the Oslo accord was politically irreversible. "We can't stand up and say to

people we want the occupation to stay. That would be irrational. You have to be realistic or the current will move you aside," said one in September. The issue for Hamas was what was going to be their place in the self-rule, and particularly their stance towards the elections for the Palestinian Self Governing Authority, earmarked to be held "no later than nine months" after self-rule began.

Publicly, the line was to have no truck with "any elections or bodies to be established in compliance with the Gaza-Jericho accord". However, in October, Mr. Yassin reportedly said that Hamas would participate in elections "because it wanted to have an influence on the daily lives of Palestinians in the occupied territories".

The price

The announcement, on April 24, that Fatah and Hamas' military wings in Gaza had agreed an accord proscribing violence between them, coupled with the news that similar talks were happening in the West Bank, left Israeli leaders crying treachery. For Palestinians in the occupied territories, however, its meaning was transparent — Hamas, finally and publicly, had accepted Oslo as fact and was about to set out its store the new politics it embodies.

What does Hamas want? Whatever local dividends may accrue from the April pact, it is clear no rapprochement between the PLO and Hamas — none at least that will endure the long arm of Israel's security forces — is feasible without a commitment from the Islamists to end the armed struggle. While figures like Mr. Jarrah say that "Hamas will cease military operations when it sees it to be in its best interest to do so," recent statements from the movement indicate that the time of "interest" may be close at hand. On April 19 — in an "important

political statement" — Hamas offered a "ceasefire with the occupation" if Israel withdrew its "67 borders, dismantled 'all settlements' and permitted 'international observers' to be stationed along the Green Line. In the current climate after Afula and Hadera, any Hamas demand invites Israeli rejection. But Palestinian analysts regard statements like these as extremely significant since they imply the Islamists' *de facto*, if not *de jure*, recognition of Israel.

What Hamas wants is what mainstream political Islam in the occupied territories has always wanted — less the soil of Palestine than the souls of its people. Hamas' "compromise" on the municipal councils and professional bodies is in fact the realisation that, post-Oslo and with the movement's standing in opinion polls holding at a solid 20 per cent, both can be won from the nationalists as civil structures to mobilise and consolidate Islamism's social strength "from below." If this is the case, the object of the Islamist opposition will then cease to be the Declaration of Principles, still less Israel, but rather the social culture of self-rule.

"The Islamic movement has no interest in defeating the Declaration of Principles by force," says Bassam Jarrah. Rather, it seeks "interaction with the Palestinian authority". This interaction, it turns out, has entirely cultural and legal ambitions. If the PLO allows Palestinian civil society to be managed "in a democratic way", ensures that school curricula be grounded on "Islamic civilisation", and stipulates that all personal status and family legislation is based on the *Shari'a*, then Mr. Jarrah concludes, "there can be reconciliation."

The signs are that of the PLO leadership such a trade-off would be alluring. It leaves the political and economic spoils of autonomy largely in their hands, and lets them (and the Israelis) off the hook on matters of security. On news of the accord in Gaza, Mr. Arafat was said to be "willing to discuss any proposal from Hamas," while, at a joint rally held at Gaza's Islamic University on April 24, Fatah spokesman Diab Lah urged the Islamists to "join the elections" since "it is the right of Islamic and national parties to establish the Palestinian authority."

For other Palestinians in the occupied territories the vision of unreconstructed PLO rule married to an Islamist culture is hardly one of home. For constituencies to whom national liberation had meant not just the acquisition of office but also an ideal espousing secularism, non-sectarianism, democracy and authentic decolonisation, one thing is at last becoming clear. Unless they mobilise, and mobilise now, against Hamas on its chosen terrain of civil society and law, the day may come when, for many Palestinians, the prize of autonomy from the Israelis may not be worth the social, cultural and legal price of peace with their Islamist compatriots.

Middle East International.

Handwritten note: *Handwritten Arabic text, possibly a signature or date.*

Embargo could be lifted

(Continued from page 1)

cluded censors, aerial surveillance and inspectors which have been accepted by Iraq even if it did not fully support them.

"I do not think they are happy with it, and they protest especially the U-2 (reconnaissance aircraft) operations still, but they go along with it, at least, and this is enough for us that we can carry out the work," Mr. Ekus said.

A 10-member U.N. team arrived in Iraq on Saturday to assess its biological arms capability.

Team leader Dave Franz said his assessment would be used by the U.N. special commission to set monitoring guidelines. He said his team would visit sites in and around Baghdad that had previously been inspected.

Two other teams, monitoring missile and chemical weapons, went to Baghdad last week.

In Baghdad a spokesman for the ruling Revolution Command Council said Iraq is determined to continue cooperation with the U.N. Security Council to have sanctions lifted or eased despite American insistence on keeping them in place.

"The leadership in Iraq appreciates the attitude of countries which have taken a positive and fair stance in the (Security) Council's delibera-

tions," the spokesman said in a statement handed to foreign reporters in Baghdad.

"A plan has been drawn to continue contacts with these countries and on Arab and international levels, in the coming stages," the spokesman added.

He mentioned by name Russia, France, China, Brazil, Spain, Nigeria and Pakistan, with which the U.S. is at odds in what more demands Iraq has to meet before the sanctions are eased.

The statement was made following a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Regional Command of the Ruling Baath Party to review a report submitted by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on his recent trip to New York.

The meeting was chaired by President Saddam Hussein.

The spokesman said the U.S. was now isolated in the Security Council, "a matter causing embarrassment to the American attitude."

He said Iraq now had a strong position with more and more countries sympathising with its stance.

The spokesman urged these states and the international community to "bolster and develop their attitude and work diligently for the removal of the unfair embargo."



Judy Leden

By Jennifer Hamarneh and Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Early this year, Yasmin Saudi lost her battle with cancer at the age of 25, but not her dream of a "flight for life."

Yasmin loved flying, to her it was "part of life," and even as she fought lung cancer, the Cambridge graduate planned to co-pilot a microlight flight from England to Jordan to raise money for cancer research.

Yasmin's family, friends and flight colleagues will see her dream achieved on Monday when the microlight team of Ben Ashman and Judy Leden are expected to touch down in Jordan, completing their 4,000 kilometre journey from Oxford to Amman.

The Ashman-Leden team, with whom Yasmin was to have flown last year, took off from Oxford Airport on May 15. Continuous updates of the team's progress have been received here in Jordan by Yasmin's father, Ghazi Saudi.

Mr. Saudi told the Jordan Times that the "Flight for Life," in aid of the Cancer Research Campaign (CRC), is patronized by His Majesty King Hussein, who himself, two years ago, was successfully operated on for the disease. The aim of the campaign, he said, is to enlighten people to the increasing rate of cancer around the world and the need to support continuous research to fight this devastating disease.

According to the CRC, one in three people will suffer from cancer in their lifetime, but progress in research resulted in 90,000 of these cases being treated successfully in 1992. The work is expensive, Mr. Saudi said, but without it the fight against cancer is weakened.

Mr. Saudi, a businessman, talked about Yasmin. He said she was a devoted athlete who practised more than 10 different sports, including scuba diving, hang gliding, rowing, horseback riding, sky diving, squash, and tennis while at university in Cambridge.

She had earned a B.Sc. in math and physics, from Cambridge University and an M.Sc. from Imperial College in medical engineering. Her dream was to come back and establish a hang gliding club in Jordan, said Mr. Saudi.



Ben Ashman sails his microlight over Wadi Rum



Yasmin Saudi

in relation to drug and clinical trials.

Professor McVie also like to discuss which Jordanian doctors could become involved in clinical trials of new drugs.

In addition, McVie, who is a member of the European Association for Research in Cancer (EARC), expected to review the team's progress on grants for visits to specialist cancer treatment hospitals around the world to learn new techniques.

Meanwhile, Mr. Saudi, a European club experienced player, and Ms. Leden, a women's world hang gliding champion, are en route to Jordan from Syria.

They have travelled through France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey.

According to Mr. Saudi, their dedication to this courageous endeavour is uplifting. He said the two pilots are taking a great risk in memory of his daughter and explained that the microlight weighs only 25 kilograms and has a wing span of 20 metres.

Not only does the team have to brave the possibilities of all sorts of inclement weather, but the luxuries of a hot and cozy bed are few and far between on this mission. Often the team has spent the night protected overhead only by the wings of the microlights.

After arrival in Jordan, the team will be occupied with a 10-day programme that includes a meeting with Prince Ra'ad, a visit to the Royal Jordanian Gliding Club (RJGC) at Marka Airport, an airshow and open day for public flying at RJGC, a visit to Al Amal Cancer Centre, flights over Petra, Wadi Rum, Ajloun, Jerash and Amman, and school visits.

Only a week before she passed away, said her father, Yasmin, weak but with tremendous will, took to the air one last time. This is what she loved most, said Mr. Saudi.

So when the "Flight for Life" makes its final approach on what will probably be one of many such missions, the team will alight in Amman to a warm welcome — and with Yasmin's spirit on their wings.

Egypt names committee

(Continued from page 1)

could take part in the dialogue.

"The call is directed to legitimate national forces," he said. Nearly 400 people have been killed in political violence in Egypt since March 1992, when Muslim militant groups began a violence campaign to overthrow the government.

Opposition parties hope the dialogue will be used to discuss changes in political and economic laws that could bring more democracy and ease restrictions on the economic system.

Mr. Mubarak said the committee would decide issues to be covered by the conference, who its participants would be, and how it would operate. Its priorities should include reviving the Egyptian economy and improving education and medical services, he said.

The committee is due to start work on Wednesday, but Mr. Mubarak did not set a date for the dialogue itself, which was originally due to start in February.

Israel wants

(Continued from page 1)

of dollars in aid to the autonomous areas.

The Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem, has become a de facto foreign ministry where Palestinian leaders receive dignitaries from abroad.

The PLO also has plans to expand the police force guarding the Orient House to other PLO offices and officials in Jerusalem, according to both Palestinian and Israeli officials.

Also irritating to the Israelis was PLO leader Yasser Arafat's recent call for a "jihad," or holy war, to free Jerusalem, and publication of the PLO's draft constitution for Palestinian autonomy that declared Jerusalem the capital of the would-be state of Palestine.

"Just as the Israelis have repeatedly declared Jerusalem their own eternal capital, we have the right to declare our own capital," said Anis Qassem, chairman of the PLO Legal Committee that drafted

the proposed constitution. "Is it allowed for them and not us?"

Mr. Rabin announced Friday that he planned steps to ensure all offices of the Palestinian authority would be based in Jericho and not move to Jerusalem.

An Israeli official who demanded anonymity said the government would try to avoid physical confrontation and instead use pressure tactics such as cutting off telephones, water and electricity, if the PLO did not comply.

Jerusalem's police have been instructed to increase their watch over the Orient House to check for expansion of more offices running the Palestinian Autonomy, another official said.

Police spokesman Eric Bar Chen declined to comment on the new orders, but quoted Police Minister Moshe Shahal as saying police would prevent "the setting up of any Palestinian authorities in Jerusalem."

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

A 'flight for life'

A young athlete's dream comes true

Yasmin was particularly interested in getting youth interested in flying because she said it required much ability and courage.

Coinciding with the arrival of the "Flight for Life" team is an expected visit to Jordan by Director of the Scientific Department of the Cancer

Research Campaign J. Gordon McVie, a professor of oncology. While in Jordan, Professor McVie plans to lecture on the

recent advances in cancer treatments. His main areas of research concern drugs, discovery of new anti-cancer drugs, clinical pharmacology

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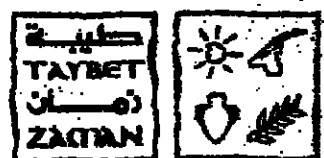
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Clean technologies: A golden opportunity for U.S. companies

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The world market for environmentally friendly technology, presently at \$200 billion and growing, is attracting an increasing number of U.S. businesses targeting Asian nations.

This sector has clearly strengthened since the first international environmental summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The industry benefits from the Clinton administration, which has staked a strong interest in cleaning up the environment as well as spurring the development of "green technologies" to increase U.S. exports.

The administration has encouraged the latter by subsidizing exports through agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The industry profits as well from World Bank interest in environmental protection.

This golden opportunity, which could reach \$600 billion in the year 2000, is equally coveted by the French companies Lyonnaise des Eaux, Dumez and Generale des Eaux, and the German electronics giant Siemens.

In the United States, the firms range in size from giants like WMX Technologies (formerly Waste Management), with \$10 billion in business for 1993, and Bechtel, with \$7.3 billion, to the average-sized like Solarex, at \$30-\$35 million, or smaller ones such as Spire or United

Solar.

Exports are critical for waste treatment technologies and for those centered on pollution prevention. Solarex exports around 65 per cent of its solar panel production, mainly to Western Europe and Asia.

The Asian market, currently estimated at \$80 billion, could reach \$120 billion before the turn of the century.

To profit from this windfall, the United States in 1992 launched the Asian Environmental Partnership (AEP) a cooperative effort with Asian countries which has already rendered \$400 million in clean technology sales.

"We are committed to achieve five to \$10 billion into the next five years" in this framework, said an AEP source speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Asia is attractive because economies are strong, it offers political stability and there is interest in environmental issues. And you know that they will pay," said William Brown of WMX, the world's leading waste treatment corporation.

The principal export targets are Taiwan, which could release \$30.5 billion for the environment over six years; South Korea with \$11.4 billion over five years, and Hong Kong with \$6 billion or \$7 billion before the year 2000.

However, all over the fabulous Chinese market, which could reach \$35 billion before 2000.

Manila opens up banking system

MANILA (AFP) — President Fidel Ramos has signed a law allowing more foreign banks to operate commercially in the Philippines, easing more than four decades of protectionism. The law, which fulfills a key requirement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for approval of a \$650 million programme, allows up to 10 additional banks, from the current four, to set up branches in the country.

Businessmen hailed the new law as a boon to foreign investment and a strong impetus for the modernisation of the domestic banking cartel, which has long been criticised for inefficiency and extreme conservatism.

A 1948 law limited commercial banking activities to only four foreign banks already operating here at the time — Citibank N.A., HongKong Bank, Standard Chartered and Bank of America.

At least 11 European and Asian banks have expressed interest in coming into the country under the new law, according to monetary officials.

Under the new banking act, the Monetary Board — the country's highest monetary authority — may allow six new banks to set up fully-owned branches in the Philippines, with the president authorised to admit four more.

BEIJING (Agencies) — China's economy continued to sizzle in April and the acute problems of state industry haunted prospects for a soft landing, economists said.

Inflation in April lost some momentum, but the growth rate, prices and debts of state enterprises continued to rise at double-digit rates, according to official data.

Industrial output rose by a year-on-year 17.9 per cent, the State Statistical Bureau said, nearly two percentage points higher than the rate recorded in the first three months of the year.

China wants to slow growth from the 13.4 per cent rise in gross domestic product (GDP) recorded last year, to avoid overheating.

Its main mechanism has been a clampdown on fixed asset investment, which last year nearly spun out of control as millions of dollars were poured into speculative building projects.

China's companies continued to invest at a swift pace in April, with completed fixed asset investment up by a year-on-year 44.2 per cent. The rate was eight per cent higher than that recorded in the first three months of the year.

But the official media was quick to note it was far below the 66.1 per cent year-on-year growth recorded in April 1993.

The slowdown had some effect on inflation.

"The state clampdown on fixed-asset investment helped take the air out of China's ballooning inflation rate in April," the official China Daily said.

The residents' consumer

China's economy sizzles, state industry languishes

price index, a broad measure of inflation, rose a year-on-year 21.7 per cent in April compared with the 22.4 per cent rate recorded in March.

Many foreign and Chinese economists are gloomy about China's ability to control inflation. The government must continue to prop up inefficient state enterprises with hefty subsidies which play havoc with the money supply.

The Communist Party is caught between fear of social unrest caused by anger at inflation and fear of labour unrest which would follow the collapse of loss-making factories.

Economists say a pattern of boom and bust economic cycles will thus continue, with periods of giddy growth followed by sharp clampdown.

Data showed state industry was still in serious trouble. The value of unsold products in warehouses rose a year-on-year 13.3 per cent at the end of April, the China Daily said, terming the figure "disastrous".

"The growing stockpiles in warehouses add to the difficulties of enterprises suffering from a lack of credit," it said.

"Moreover, the increasing stockpiles are showing more enterprises into defaulting on their debts," it added, raising the frightening spectre of a credit collapse.

Debits of state enterprises jumped a year-on-year 29.5 per cent at the end of April, the State Statistical Bureau said.

China's foreign trade remained in deficit in the first four months of the year, with imports exceeding exports by

\$1.75 billion. Imports totalled \$29.79 billion, up a year-on-year 20.3 per cent, while exports were \$28.04 billion, up 22 per cent.

China ran a full-year trade deficit last year for the first time since 1989.

But April was the first month since September 1992 in which the growth rate for exports exceeded that of imports, the official media said.

Meanwhile, China has forecast its economy would expand by 12 per cent in the first half of 1994, an announcement that made its goal of pegging growth and inflation to below 10 per cent look increasingly unrealistic.

In a report carried by all major newspapers, State Planning Commission spokesman Wei Lijun said industrial output would grow by 18 per cent from January to June over the same period last year, while fixed asset investment and consumer sales would rise by 30 and 22 per cent respectively.

A Western economist said the forecasts suggested China would have difficulty bringing 1994 growth below 10 per cent. Growth last year was more than 13 per cent.

In the first quarter, they said, 12.7 growth was a seasonally adjusted figure in line with real growth of about 10 per cent. There's not much seasonality in the first six months, so it's a good indicator of where they are really going," he said.

Mr. Wei was however upbeat about figures for the first four months of the year, saying they reflected the success of reforms implemented in recent months in the hope of cooling down the overheated economy.

Industrial output grew 16.4 per cent in the first four months over the same period last year, while fixed asset investment rose 38.4 per cent, Mr. Wei said. The figures were down from some 25 per cent and nearly 70 per cent respectively between January and April last year.

The official said the slowdown in fixed asset investment had created a stable supply of raw materials, predicting that this would help bring down inflation in the second quarter of the year.

Inflation was running at 20.1 per cent nationwide and some 26 per cent in big cities in the first quarter.

However, the economist said China was unlikely to come anywhere near its target of bringing annual inflation down from some 13 per cent in 1993 to below 10 per cent this year, despite efforts to control the rate artificially by reimposing price controls.

"Twelve per cent economic growth really is too high to be consistent with bringing down inflation," he said, adding that the true aim of China's present anti-inflation policy seemed to

be to stop it going any higher.

The Chinese official also pointed to a recovery in state sector production in April, with output increasing five per cent over the same month last year.

The figure compared with a 2.2 per cent rise in a state enterprise output in the first quarter of the year, when the loss-making sector was badly hit by a tight credit policy aimed at fighting inflation.

A Western diplomat said the sudden jump might also reflect a move "to play down little bit the extent to which the sector is in trouble" and rationalisation in China's compilation of figures on state enterprises.

As enterprises have taken foreign partners, Chinese statistics have not been accurately adjusted to reflect their transfer from the category of "state enterprise" to "joint venture," he said, adding that this had made the situation in the state sector look even worse than the reality.

In the another area, the Chinese government is moving to restore order in the country's chaotic mining sector, plagued by a series of horrific accidents, illegal operators and an almost total lack of regulatory control.

According to the Guangming Daily, the main problem facing the central authorities is the surge in the number of small township coal mines which number about 120,000 and account for more than 40 per cent of total coal output.

Nearly one-third do not have operating licences and 70 per cent fail to meet basic safety standards, the newspaper said. A recent government circular calls for the elimination of all unlicensed mines as well as an

end to the poaching of resources from state-run mines.

There are 11,200 private or small collective mines — most unlicensed — operating within the 103 key state mines, the Economic Daily said.

Many of these encroach on the reserves of the state firms, poaching an estimated 568 million tonnes annually at an economic loss to the government of more than 21 million yuan (\$2.4 million).

Using substandard mining techniques and unwilling to invest in new equipment, operators of the private and collective mines often cut costs by ignoring safety regulations, thus posing a serious threat to workers.

In the first three months of this year alone, 724 miners died in accidents, compared with 1,038 for the whole of 1993.

A related report in the People's Daily showed wastage is also a serious problem. Most owners of small mines lack expertise and for each tonne of coal ore mined, only 10 per cent is utilised.

Attempts by the central government to exert greater control over the coal sector have been frustrated by a lack of official cooperation at local level.

Coal mining is often the quickest and easiest way for farmers to earn a decent wage and small mines provide an important source of local revenue.

In what amounts to a tacit recognition by the authorities that small mines are here to stay, the government is to invest unspecified sums over the next three years to help township and other mines upgrade safety standards.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 30, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Find a new way to solving a difficult problem this Memorial Day as you sidestep a fair-weather friend who is really just taking up space. Get rid of whatever is causing disharmony. Develop closer ties.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Use particular care in motion today and avoid possible trouble. Be sure to keep promises you have made to fellow associates and close friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Use good sense in the handling of finances and be exact with facts and figures. Be careful of your reputation especially around a troublemaker.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take care you don't waste valuable time over something insignificant or you could lose out where it counts the most on an important project.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You get poor advice from a trusted adviser now, so use your own good judgment for best results on getting a new assignment completed.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Avoid being with friends who are highly sensitive and cultivate those who are more stable. Avoid a group affair where no one is known at the event.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't jeopardize your good name in any way now and

stay out of trouble. Your creative ideas need expression now to get noticed by the right people.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study new worthwhile ventures but don't commit yourself to anything yet. Safeguard your good credit standing so you get what is needed in an emergency.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Find out what could be annoying your mate and do something constructive about it. Show others you have wisdom to get the solution to a problem.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Situations arise at this time in connection with associates that need the right handling. Maintain a cheerful manner even under pressure.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Don't neglect important work you have to do early in the day. You are able to communicate well with others now on the solution of a problem.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) You could be tempted to have a good time at needless high costs, so forget it. Make this a profitable day instead of wasting money on needless things.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't make matters worse than they are at home by unnecessary arguments. Show others that you can be relied upon when there is a crisis at hand.

Why watch football games at home when you can enjoy it with a crowd.

Be a sport, come to
The Marriott Bar

Members only
Please call: 607607



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Marriott
HOTEL
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Abu Shakra introduces new Benetton perfume

Abu Shakra Trading Agency Sunday introduced a new Benetton product during a press conference held at the Marriott Hotel. Raed Abu Shakra presented the new line "Tribu" perfume and eau de toilette.

Mr. Abu Shakra said Jordan is the second country in the Middle East where this product is being introduced.

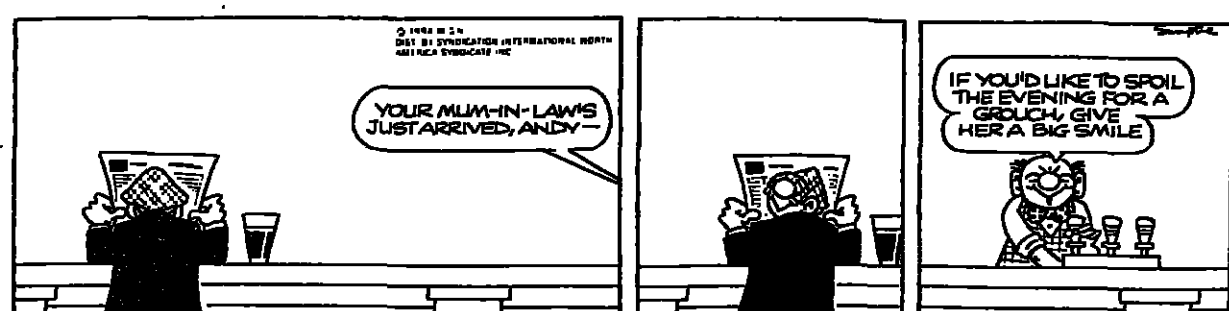
Benetton representatives Rafi Fattal and Suad Murad said the new products reflect the unity of the family and the beauty and charm of nature. "This product is the heritage of humankind, and does not include any artificial components. It is made up of fruit, flowers and wood assembled from various parts of the world."

The press conference was attended by Abu Shakra Trading Agency Director General Rami Abu Shakra and several journalists.

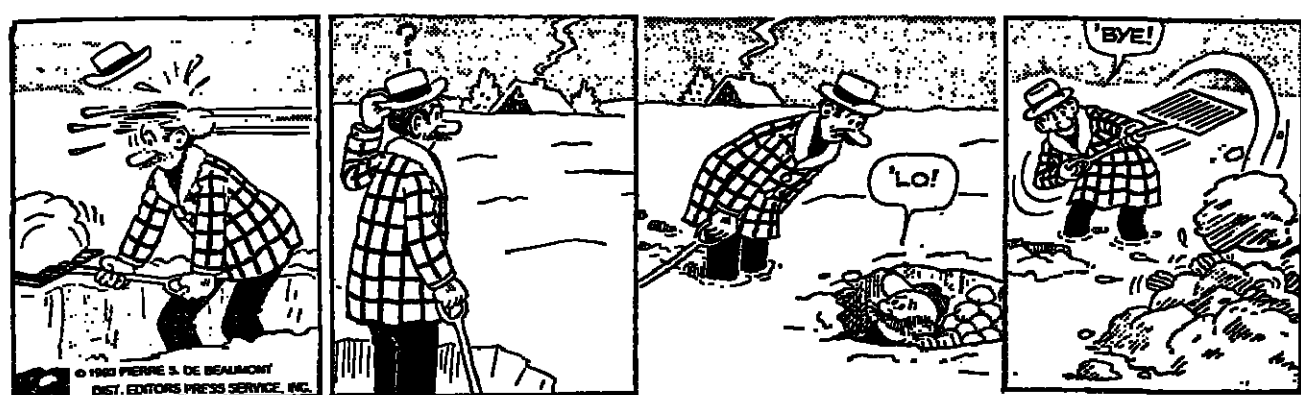
Peanuts



Andy Capp



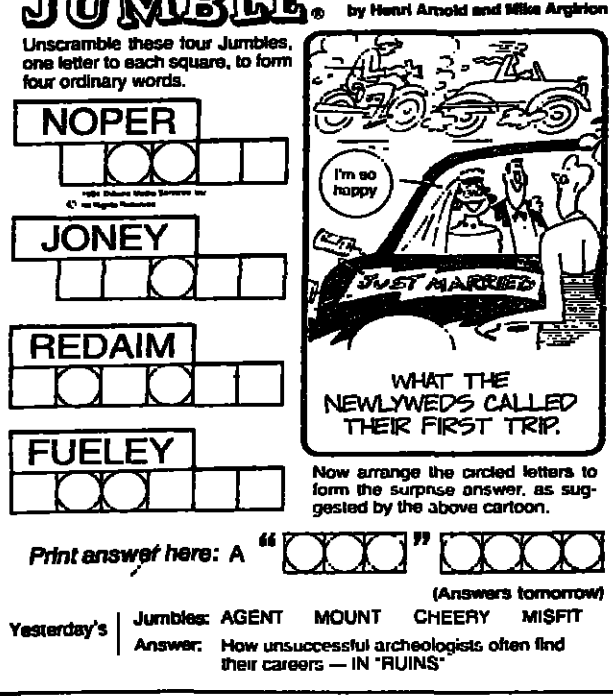
Mutt'n' Jeff



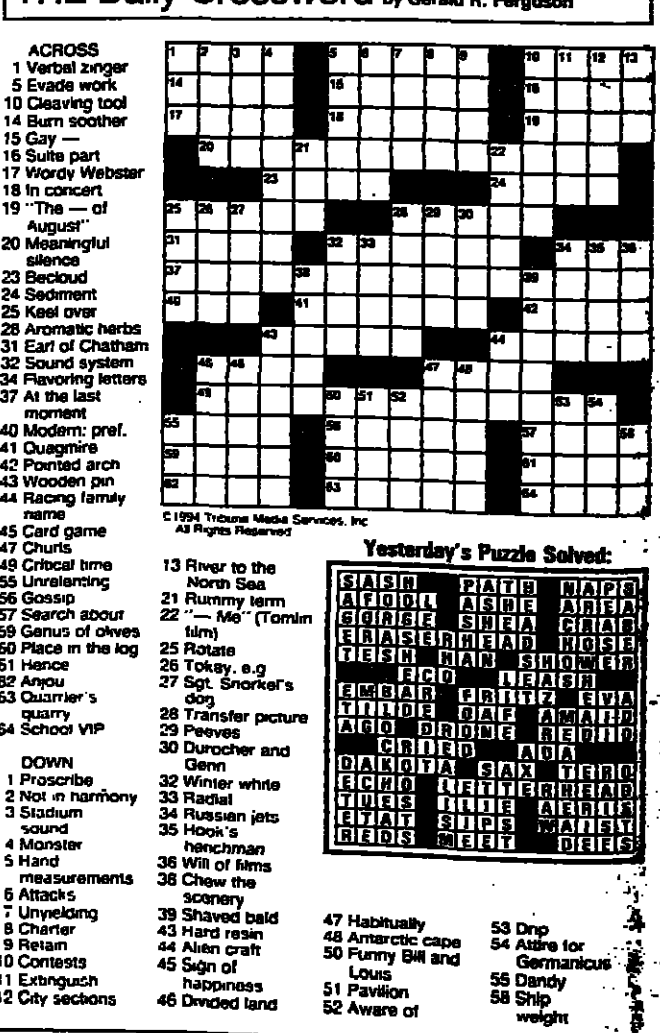
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



THE Daily Crossword by Gerald R. Ferguson



مكتبة الامم المتحدة

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

BIDDING AND OFFERING PRICE LIST

TELEPHONE: 662170 / 662172

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR JORDAN

24/05/1994

COMPANY'S NAME

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED TODAY	PREV. CLOSING	OFFERING PRICE	OFFERING QUANTITY
ABJAH BANK	18,420	184,200	184,200	184,200
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	15,296	7,612	1,625	1,625
RIJDAH RAK INVESTMENT BANK	28,376	28,376	28,376	28,376
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	21,443	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	26,376	26,376	26,376	26,376
JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
ABJAH JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN TRADING BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN AGRICULTURAL BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN TRADING BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN REAL ESTATE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN INSURANCE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN TRAVEL BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN TOURISM BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN AIRCRAFT BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN MARINE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN OIL BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN PETROLEUM BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN MINING BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN METALS BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN CHEMICAL BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN TEXTILE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN CLOTHING BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN FOOD BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN BEVERAGE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN TOBACCO BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN MEDICAL BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN ELECTRONICS BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN TRANSPORTATION BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN LOGISTICS BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN CONSTRUCTION BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN ENGINEERING BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN ARCHITECTURE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN DESIGN BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN CONSULTING BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN MANAGEMENT BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN TRAINING BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN RESEARCH BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN ANALYTICS BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN DATA BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN SOFTWARE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN HARDWARE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN NETWORKS BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN SECURITY BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
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JORDAN BROKERAGE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN CLEARING BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
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JORDAN CUSTODIAN BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN TRANSFER BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN PAYMENT BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN COLLECTION BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN REMITTANCE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
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JORDAN AGENT BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN REPRESENTATIVE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN ADVISOR BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN CONSULTANT BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN SPECIALIST BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN EXPERT BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN PROFESSIONAL BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN FREELANCE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN CONTRACTOR BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
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JORDAN RECONSIDER BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN RECONSTRUCT BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN REFORM BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN REORGANIZE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN RESTRUCTURE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN REDESIGN BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN REDEVELOP BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN REEVALUATE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN REESTIMATE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN RECALCULATE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN RECOMPUTE BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN RECOUNT BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN RECHECK BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN REVERIFY BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN RECONFIRM BANK	26,186	3,325	3,325	3,325
JORDAN RECORRECT BANK	2			

Serbs cooperate as hopes for Bosnia ceasefire rise

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces have lifted restrictions on U.N. military observers as hopes grow that the three sides in the conflict may sign an overall ceasefire within days, U.N. sources said Sunday.

Serb commanders, in a goodwill gesture, agreed to allow the observers to patrol freely in the heavy weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo in February and successfully interposed themselves between government and Serb forces around the city.

Earlier, Serb forces hampered the observers' work in defiance of a local truce agreed when they halted an offensive against Gorazde last month under threat of NATO air strikes.

They lifted the restrictions Saturday as U.N. envoy Yasushi Akashi called leaders of warring Serbs, Croats and Muslims to Geneva on June 2 and 3 for talks on a comprehensive ceasefire to end 26 months of fighting in Bosnia.

U.N. sources told Reuters that international mediators believed the foes could be prepared to sign a four-month, Bosnia-wide ceasefire.

A senior member of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said it would entail interposing U.N. troops between the combatants, the creation of a buffer zone and withdrawal of heavy weapons.

"We have been asked to draft a ceasefire agreement and the chief of staff is looking at troop needs," he added.

Bosnian Serbs had been pressing for a permanent ceasefire.

Muslims and their Croat allies have argued for a two-month truce fearing that a longer one would serve to freeze the military gains of the Serbs, who control 70 per cent of the territory.

U.N. sources said they might need more troops to supervise the ceasefire even though

it would involve monitoring many hundreds of kilometres of lines of confrontation.

"It will not be a Sarajevo-type situation where we had to interpose U.N. troops all the way around the city," said one U.N. officer familiar with the evolving plans.

U.N. troops, backed by the threat of NATO air strikes, created a heavy weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo in February and successfully interposed themselves between government and Serb forces around the city.

Britain and France have threatened to withdraw peacekeeping troops from Bosnia unless on a comprehensive settlement to the war is achieved during the summer.

The Geneva ceasefire meeting would take place between rounds of talks involving the warring factions and an international "contact group" to discuss how to divide up Bosnia between the Muslim-Croat alliance and Serbs.

The first round in France last week ended with both sides saying little was achieved and blaming each other for the stalemate. The next round is due to be held on June 6 and 7.

The mediators have proposed that the Muslim-Croat alliance should get 51 per cent of Bosnia and the Serbs 49 per cent.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, quoted by the Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency, said the Serbs would have to cede some territory but how much and which parts would be decided by parliament or by a referendum.

Meanwhile, Bosnian army chief General Rasim Delic said Sunday, the mainly Muslim Bosnian government army is steeling itself for a new round of offensives to ensure the future Muslim-Croat federation "will have dimensions achieved on the battlefield."

'Nothing new in N. Korea nuclear offer'

VIENNA (R) — The U.N. nuclear safeguards agency said Sunday North Korea had offered the U.N. nothing new in its blocked bid to examine the spent fuel of a suspect reactor and see if plutonium had been siphoned off to make bombs.

A spokesman for the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported no fresh offers from Pyongyang. The agency's reactor inspection team was already back in Vienna after failed negotiations, he added.

Asked for reaction to a reported North Korean proposal to store the spent fuel rods from the five-megawatt Yongbyon nuclear reactor for later inspection, he said this sounded like an offer the IAEA had already rejected as insufficient.

"We have to decide which fuel elements to sample, otherwise we cannot determine where they came from," spokesman Hans Meyer told Reuters.

In a statement Saturday, the IAEA said talks with North Korea to resolve the issue had reached no agreement.

Mr. Meyer repeated that, in order to verify with assurance whether the rods were the originals placed in the reactor in 1986, agency inspectors must be able to "segregate, select and secure" certain fuel rods for testing.

Throughout the 16-month dispute, the United States, Western powers and Asian

allies have pursued a policy of gentle persuasion, offering North Korea economic concessions in return for allowing inspections and abandoning any nuclear bomb aspirations it might harbour.

The threat of international sanctions has been kept in the background throughout the long wrangling.

Following Pyongyang's fresh rejection of IAEA checks, however, the U.N. Security Council could issue a warning to North Korea that it has run out of patience.

In what appeared to be a bid to keep options open, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by the official KCNA news agency early Sunday, said the rods could be inspected if negotiations with the United States resolved a dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

Sampling could go ahead in the future if North Korea "undergoes routine and ad hoc inspections with a package solution of the nuclear issue" agreed by Pyongyang and Washington, he was quoted as saying.

But this appeared to hark back again to what North Korea claims is its "unique status", created when it unilaterally suspended its membership of the safeguards accord which backs up the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

The "unique status" formula, which is not recognised by the IAEA, would effectively give North Korea the ability to pick and choose which safe-

guards agreements to honour.

North Korea strongly denies any form of nuclear weapons development and warns that sanctions would be tantamount to an act of war — a terrifying prospect on the world's most heavily fortified frontier, where 35,000 U.S. troops are committed to defend South Korea.

Washington suspects that the Yongbyon reactor was stopped for 100 days in 1989 so that plutonium could be extracted from its fuel rods to make one or two crude nuclear bombs.

North Korea has refused to halt the refuelling process it started unilaterally earlier this month, claiming that to do so would create the risk of radioactive contamination.

The IAEA says the reactor is now undergoing refuelling at "a very fast pace."

"Almost half of the fuel in the reactor core has been discharged and in a pattern that has precluded the agency's ability to implement the full range of the safeguards measures required," IAEA Director-General Hans Blix said in a report to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Friday.

If this continued at the same rate, the possibility of meaningful sampling would be "lost within days," Mr. Blix said.

The stalemate coincided with fresh reports that North Korea was preparing to test a nuclear-capable, long-range missile.



Leaders of pro-democracy groups holding Goddess of Democracy banners address a large crowd at a rally in Hong Kong Sunday prior to the 5th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Massacre. Demonstrators demanded that China "rehabilitate" the Beijing democracy protests it crushed five years ago (AFP photo)

Amnesty report tells of torture in Chinese jails

HONG KONG (R) — Pro-democracy protesters jailed after China's bloody 1989 crackdown are being subjected to severe beatings and other forms of maltreatment, a Hong Kong Sunday newspaper quoted an Amnesty International report as saying.

The report compiled by the British-based human rights group is due to be released later in the week to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the crushing of the protests.

It centres on a letter from more than 40 political prisoners held at Hanyang Prison near Wuhan in Hubei province.

The letter tells of beatings stretching for six hours, the English-language Sunday Morning Post said. "Every political prisoner in Hubei has a history of blood and tears," the inmates write.

"Most of the pro-democracy dissidents are still in prison and continue to suffer various kinds of inhuman torture," the inmates are quoted as saying in the letter.

The signatories claim guards use electric batons and whips on political prisoners, saving their most severe beatings for the democracy advocates.

The paper quotes the report as saying that tens of thousands of protesters remain in jails without trial throughout China after being detained for "counter-revolutionary" crimes.

The report, entitled China:

Human Rights Abuses Five Years After Tiananmen, also names some of the civilians killed by troops who crushed protests centred on Tiananmen Square in Beijing on June 4, 1989.

The 75 names include children, elderly people and university students.

The report also lists more than 200 prisoners held at Qinghai Farm labour camp and Beijing Prison No. 2 as well as the signed testimony from inmates at Hanyang Prison.

Many former political prisoners from the Hubei jail are now vagrants and unable to find jobs after their release, the paper quotes the Amnesty report as saying.

Meanwhile, thousands rallied in Hong Kong Sunday in the first of a planned series of demonstrations to mark Saturday's fifth anniversary of China's bloody 1989 pro-democracy crackdown.

About 3,000 people marched from the central business district to the headquarters of the Xinhua News Agency, China's de facto consulate in the British colony.

The marchers waved slim black banners carrying a picture of the "goddess of democracy" statue that students in Tiananmen Square erected before their protests were crushed on June 4.

Other banners read "fight for democracy" and "never forget".

Rebels say more Burma soldiers die in drug war

BANGKOK (R) — Guerrillas loyal to Golden Triangle drugs warlord Khun Sa said Sunday they had killed seven Burmese soldiers and wounded many more in an ambush, the latest clash in a month-long "opium war" in eastern Burma.

Burmese troops pounded the guerrillas' abandoned camps with artillery, and a rival ethnic group offered to join the fight against Khun Sa if Burmese government forces continued to suffer heavy losses.

The guerrillas of Khun Sa's Mong Tai Army (MTA) said they attacked Burmese troop reinforcements with remote-

control bombs at Ban Maho about 15 kilometres southwest of Tachileik on the border with Thailand.

At least seven Burmese soldiers were killed on the spot and large numbers were wounded, Chao Fuen Kam, an MTA spokesman, told Reuters by telephone.

He said Burmese soldiers Sunday morning shelled the guerrillas' abandoned camps about four to five kilometres east of the main battlefield of Doi Kong Mon.

"Over 80 shells of 120mm artillery piece landed in the three camps they abandoned earlier," Chao Fuen Kam said.

Rutskoi plans opposition government for Russia

MOSCOW (R) — Afghan war hero Alexander Rutskoi staked his claim to leadership of a united opposition to President Boris Yeltsin at the weekend, railing against the West and demanding creation of an "opposition government."

Mr. Rutskoi, speaking at a leadership meeting of the "Agreement For Russia" alliance of Communists and nationalists, called for a nationwide assembly in September. It should press for early polls and create an alternative cabinet ready to assume power.

The opposition, he said, must be disciplined and brook no compromise with today's government. "That would be delusion."

"We paid with blood for our lack of organisation," he said, in reference to October's fight in Moscow after Mr. Yeltsin disbanded the old parliament and Mr. Rutskoi launched an uprising.

This defeat must not be repeated, he said, standing at the podium with his hands thrust deep in his pockets.

Saturday's meeting backed the proposal of Mr. Rutskoi, who was empowered to organise the "national accord assembly."

Mr. Rutskoi, who had been Mr. Yeltsin's vice-president, was backed by Gennady Zyuganov, head of the Russian Communist Party (CPRF) and its Duma faction, as well as extra-parliamentary forces.

Mr. Zyuganov said Mr. Yeltsin's government was bereft of any legitimacy.

Opposition groups inside and outside "Agreement For Russia" calculate unemployment, inflation and harvest problems could lead to a crisis for Mr. Yeltsin in the autumn.

Anti-Western sentiment was a strong theme of speakers, who said the West had helped destroy the Soviet Union and now used Russian leaders to keep it on its knees as an easy commercial market.

Mr. Rutskoi attacked what he called the new Russians — a breed of people who, he said, had surrendered their souls to Western values and amassed "fairy-tale fortunes" without working.

"Open speculation they call business, dealing in foreign currency they call work."

"Money is made out of thin air," he said. Meanwhile poverty tormented the masses.

Nationalist film director Sta-

islav Govorukhin continued the theme of a Western onslaught. The Russian soul, he said, pausing to sigh deeply, had been humiliated and perverted.

"Those governing Russia today are not leading us to a precipice. No, they are too clever for that," he said.

"They're leading us into a narrow canyon, where we can drink Pepsi-Cola and eat Snickers," he said, invoking the name of the chocolate bar that, for Russian nationalists, has come to symbolise national degradation, foreign oppression and shame.

"The Russian soul has become a colony where the dollar is the currency and English a second government language," Mr. Govorukhin said. "How do you destroy Russia? You tear it from its roots."

Writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn struck a similar note on his return to Russia this weekend after 20 years exile, attacking the use of English words such as "briefing" and calling for a broader spiritual revival.

Rutskoi aide Andrei Fyodorov said the Agreement For Russia Alliance, which says it embraces 20 parties and movements on left and right, would not try to embrace such Communist radicals as Viktor Ampilov or nationalists such as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

The speeches were lacklustre in their delivery and the atmosphere of the meeting subdued. Present were two generations of men humbled by Yeltsin and seeking redress.

Besides Mr. Rutskoi, jailed for five months after the October uprising, was General Valentin Varennikov, sacked from the army after the 1991 coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, and several other military men, now in civilian clothes, who went down with him.

Mr. Rutskoi clearly sees himself as the leader, but his Social Democratic People's Party has little support. Mr. Zyuganov's Communists are the biggest party with a far stronger claim to influence.

Only a dramatic worsening of the economic situation would give the opposition the cohesion it needs if it is to challenge Mr. Yeltsin. The president's enemies hope the coming autumn, as the autumns of 1991 and 1993, will prove a season of drama, this time not to Mr. Yeltsin's greater glory.

U.S. army set to begin withdrawal from Panama

PANAMA CITY (R) — The first of 10,000 U.S. troops stationed here return home this week as the United States begins the end of nearly a century of military presence in Panama.

About 600 soldiers plus their families will be pulled out starting Friday as part of what will be a long goodbye from the tiny Central American nation and the U.S.-controlled Panama Canal.

By the end of next year, 4,000 troops will be gone, but the rest of the pullout will not be completed until the end of the decade.

By then, the United States will have turned over to Panama the U.S. military bases here, the waterway itself and about 80,000 acres (32,375 hectares) of real estate in the canal zone.

The moves are mandated by the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties signed by then President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian military strongman Omar Torrijos in which the United States agreed to hand over the canal it has controlled since taking over its

construction in 1903.

Although the United States reserves the right by treaty to defend the Panama Canal, the likelihood of danger to the waterway in the post-cold war is small.

"There would be no problem in defending the canal from the United States should something come up," a U.S. military spokesman told Reuters.

For Panama, which will not see any U.S. federal aid that normally helps U.S. communities to massive base closures, the withdrawal could be nothing short of traumatic.

"How Panama handles the (withdrawal of the United States) will in large part determine its future," Ernesto Perez Balladarez, Panama's president-elect, said recently.

Observers agree Panama will be hard-pressed to make up for the loss of anywhere from \$250,400 million of annual income from the U.S. base.

Some 16,000 acres (6,475 hectares) and 400 buildings have already been turned over to Panama.

Governor rejects right-to-spank law

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AFP) — Florida's governor has rejected a bill that would have guaranteed parents the right to spank their youngsters, saying it might make detecting child abuse tougher.

Lawton Chiles vetoed the legislation Friday, saying that the bill's wording could have made it too difficult to prosecute cases of child abuse. But he also said the state had to balance parents' rights and the protection of children, and urged state lawmakers to draft a revised bill at a special legislative session next month.

Arsenio Hall ends 5-year run

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Excited fans in the dog pound pumped their arms and said "wood-woof-woof" for the last time as the Arsenio Hall Show broadcast its final show. The programme, which brought a party atmosphere and cutting-edge music to late-night television, ended its five-year run opening with a 10-minute retrospective. Hall relived with fans appearances by President Bill Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, the Rev. Louis Farrakhan and Madonna. Hall's first guest on his last show was his debut guest, singer Luther Vandross.

"I wanted to be the first one on to congratulate you all," Vandross told Hall after shaking hands and hugging him. "I'm sad to see you go... but I'm happy for you." Later, actress Whoopi Goldberg brought a bottle of champagne which Hall sprayed toward the cameras.

James Brown sang the show off the air as Hall stood at his side smiling. "I'm gonna miss it," Hall said. Hall said last month he was ending the nationally syndicated show he co-produced with Paramount Domestic Television.

Crazed monkey injures 30 Bangladeshis

DHAKA (Agencies) — Vigilante groups armed with bows and arrows are hunting a monkey which slapped, bit and scratched about 30 people in Bangladesh, putting 13 of them in hospital, police said Sunday.

"This appears to be a crazy animal which behaves differently with people of different sex and age," one police officer told reporters at Savar, a northern suburb of Dhaka. "It slaps young children, bites women and scratches men. It storms into houses through the backdoors and kitchen windows and frequently shows its teeth from trees." Savar residents said they had formed vigilante squads to try to seize or kill the monkey which has terrorised people in at least six villages.

Military threatens drinks clampdown

JAKARTA (AFP) — The Indonesian military has accused liquor importers and makers of flouting alcohol laws and threatened to prosecute offenders. "We will take to court any liquor producers or importers whose production and supply exceed the regulations," Jakarta military commander Major General Heodipriyono was reported as saying by the Antara News Agency Sunday. Four drunken youths were detained last month for killing an army general. Within days the military and police mounted a nationwide crackdown on alcohol abuse, arresting hundreds of under-age drinkers and seizing and destroying millions of bottles of alcohol.

Hong Kong spends more than a few pennies

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong is famed worldwide not just for its shopping, star ferry and skyscrapers — but also its public toilets. That's the view of the British colony's Urban Council, which announced spending of another Hong Kong dollar \$68.8 million (\$8.82 million) this year on sprucing up its 303 public toilets, once a noisome last resort of only very desperate.

"The council's trail-blazing role in the provision of better quality public toilets has achieved international recognition, and starting Monday the council will host the three-day Asia-Pacific seminar on public toilets," it said in a statement.

The Council said work on improving the sorry state of public conveniences began in the early 1990s. "Since the campaign began in 1991, 35 public toilets have been refurbished to the new standards and 26 more will be upgraded during this financial year." Delegates from 12 countries will attend the seminar.

Colombians vote in photo-finish election

BOGOTA (R) — Colombians elect a new president Sunday in a photo-finish race between free market conservative Andres Pastrana and Liberal Party rival Ernesto Samper, who wants a bigger role for the government.

Opinion polls published in the past week suggest neither candidate will win the 50 per cent plus one of the votes needed for outright victory, meaning the contest to succeed popular President Cesar Gaviria will go to a second round

three weeks later.

Colombia, which has an estimated 32 million people, is the world's leading cocaine exporter and a major grower of marijuana, but drugs have hardly been mentioned in the elections.

Instead, Mr. Samper and Mr. Pastrana have fought low-key campaigns designed by image advisers and focusing mainly on economic and social issues. Policy differences have been minimised and even the slogans were similar: Mr. Pas-

trana's "the moment of the people has come" against Mr. Samper's "it's time for the people".

Colombia's last election campaign in 1989-1990 was a bloodbath in which three candidates were murdered and drug traffickers exploded bombs indiscriminately. But since police last December shot to death the man blamed for much of the violence, Medellin cartel boss Pablo Escobar, drug terrorism has abated.

Cubans hole up in Belgian envoys residence

HAVANA (R) — Dozens of Cubans climbed over and opened wrought-iron gates at the Belgian ambassador's residence in Havana Saturday and were holed up inside to demand political asylum, witnesses said.

A reliable foreign diplomat, who asked not to be identified by name, told Reuters there were 114 men, women and children inside the residence.

Earlier reports of the numbers seeking asylum coming from Cuban police officials,

neighbours and those inside the residence ranged from 20 to 124.

The Belgian ambassador arrived several hours later but drove onto the grounds without making any comment. He left later to meet with Cuban officials, according to a diplomatic source.

Bystanders said some of the group demanding to leave the Communist-ruled island had climbed over the mansion's spiked, wrought-iron fence and

opened it to let others in.

Police reinforcements arrived and cordoned off the area shortly after the incident.

A group of smiling young Cubans at the residence gathered near a rear entrance shortly after the incident began. One, a woman, held an infant in the air while another held up a sign reading "down with Fidel," a reference to President Fidel Castro.

The scene appeared peaceful with police posted 20 metres apart around the residence.

Among the prime ministers

will be the heads of government of Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

The day before the anniversary on June 5, U.S. paratroopers and a group of veterans will re-enact landings over the Amfreville marshes.

In 1944, the veterans liberated the first French village of Saint-Mere-l'Eglise.

British paratroopers will jump near Pegasus Bridge on the canal linking the Normandy capital of Caen with the sea to commemorate the glider-borne landings overnight on June 5 when Pegasus and another key bridge over the nearby River Orne were seized from the Germans.

The landings were the precursor to a massive landing craft invasion of five beaches on the Normandy coast in face of heavy German resistance that at the end of the day on June 6 left the allies with a sometimes precarious hold on occupied France.

Visitors and their French hosts will be strung out in ceremonies along the five beaches of Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword throughout the day with the highlight at "bloody" Omaha, where the Americans almost came to grief losing 3,000 casualties.

An international ceremony will be held at Omaha to be attended by Mr. Clinton, Mr. Mitterrand and Queen Elizabeth.

Close to 15,000 French troops have been mobilised to deal with the logistics of the ceremonies and transport veterans, while mobile clinics, doctors and helicopter ambulances have been laid on.

Meanwhile 7,000 paramilitary gendarmes will patrol roads which have been banned to ordinary traffic up to 20 kilometres (15 miles) from the ceremonies. Hotels and other tourist accommodation have

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi minister in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Al Sabah arrived in Cairo Sunday to attend a meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), during which he is expected to call for an end to U.N. sanctions against his country. The conference, which starts Tuesday, is expected to attract around 80 foreign ministers for four days of talks that diplomats say will cover fighting in Bosnia and Rwanda and the economic future of the 108-member movement.

Arafat urged to deny divorce

BEIRUT (AFP) — PLO leader Yasser Arafat was urged Sunday to publicly denounce reports that his wife was filing for divorce and that her uncle was being questioned in Tunis in a corruption inquiry, Georges Hawa, the uncle of Mr. Arafat's wife Suha Tawil, denied he was being held in Tunis and said he "was not filing for divorce in an interview published by Al Hayat newspaper. Mr. Hawa urged Mr. Arafat to hold a press conference within 24 hours to denounce the unfounded reports. "Otherwise I will have to reveal the names of those behind this campaign and to open files which I have not wished to open so far."

Retired general nominated minister

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin nominated a retired general as health minister Sunday, in an apparent bid to strengthen his cabinet's hawkish wing. Ephraim Sneh, a former West Bank military governor, is to assume the position at a time of crisis for the health system as parliament debates a controversial medical insurance law. The 49-year-old trained doctor favours a cautious approach to peacemaking with the Palestinians and Arab states.

Iran says Saudi barred official from Medina

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Sunday its top pilgrimage official had been barred by Saudi Arabia from the holy city of Medina. "The Saudi government once again banned the head of the Iranian pilgrims, Hojatoleslam Mohammad Reysakhari, from going to Medina to supervise the Iranian pilgrims in the holy city," the official news agency IRNA said in a report from Saudi Arabia.

Sudanese, Ugandan presidents meet

VIENNA (AFP) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir met in private at the residence of Austrian President Thomas Klestil, a presidential spokesman said here Sunday. During their head-to-head meeting on Saturday, the two east African leaders discussed the civil war in Sudan and bilateral relations, the Austrian spokesman said. Since the outbreak of civil war in Sudan in 1983, some 300,000 Sudanese have sought refuge in Uganda. The Ugandan president started an official visit to Austria last Wednesday. The arrival of the Sudanese president has been kept secret.

Iranian shot near Baghdad

NICOSIA (AFP) — Gunmen in a taxi shot dead an Iranian dissident in an attack north of the Iraqi capital Sunday, Iran's main armed opposition group said, blaming Tehran for the killing. The People's of Mujahadeen, in a communique sent from Baghdad, said Sayed Ahmad Sadr Lahijani, a 35-year-old member of the group, was shot in the head as he drove his car through Ghalebich, 50 kilometres from the capital. The Iranian embassy in Baghdad was behind the attack, it charged.

Kohl's party regains lead in polls

BONN (AFP) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian sister party the Christian Social Union regained the lead in opinion polls Sunday after trailing the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) for several months. Media reports quoted the Forsa, Wickert, Emsid and Basis Research polling institutes as giving the CDU/CSU a lead of between one and three per cent ahead of Rudolf Scharping's SPD, although Mr. Scharping remained the more popular candidate for chancellor. Germany faces a general election on Oct. 16. According to Forsa, last Monday's election of Christian Democrat Roman Herzog as president gave a boost to the ruling coalition, which includes the liberal Free Democratic Party. Both CDU and CSU members of the electoral college which voted for Mr. Herzog gave him their solid support in a calculated demonstration of unity, although some FDP members did not back him.

Sanaa rejects

(Continued from page 1)

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan and briefed him on the four-week war.

The official news agency WAM said he expressed appreciation of the UAE leaders' role to stop hostilities between the south and the north.

Mr. Attas's comments coincided with press statements by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali that he would send an envoy to Yemen after a ceasefire to help reconcile warring parties and restore unity.

The secretary general said contacts were underway among Security Council members as well as with Arab countries involved in Yemeni mediation to discuss the civil strife and issue a resolution on a ceasefire.

"I hope the Security Council will issue a resolution calling on the Yemeni parties to halt hostilities and to ask the U.N. Secretary General to send a special envoy on a fact-finding mission to the United Nations will try to reconcile the two parties within the framework of the Yemeni unity," he told the United Arab Emirates semi-official daily Al Itihad.

A Sanaa based diplomat said that Yemeni mediators are looking at a loose confederation between northern and southern parts of the country as a possible way to end civil war.

They said a confederation, being promoted by both northern and southern mediators who have distanced themselves from the civil war, could address the grievances and avoid a final split between North and South.

But they warned that the process, still in its early stages, was likely to be long and arduous and its chances of success were 50-50 at best.

At the Al Anad front north

of Aden, both northern and southern Yemeni forces sporadically fired shells and rockets.

Southern officers said that north of the Al Anad military base at least two southern surface-to-surface missiles slammed into Dhalea junction area where northern forces were regrouping tanks for a new push on Aden.

Southern Brigadier Saleh Tammah said northern tanks had been scattered along a 10-km front at Al Anad and late on Saturday were regrouping at the junction.

"Two of our guided missiles hit the tanks at the junction, separating them again," he told Reuters.

A confident Tammah said his forces at the Al Anad front were being reinforced by two southern brigades. One brigade from Al Mahrah governorate in the far east of southern Yemen had started arriving.

Officers said northern units were seen fighting with their shirts off, trying to cope with desert temperatures of more than 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

"We are used to this but they come from cool mountain areas in the north," said a southern officer.

Southern forces were benefiting from the relative lull to reinforce and re-equip. Earth movers were building new southern fortifications on both fronts.

On the battlefield, fighting around Aden eased on Sunday after a night of missile attacks by both sides. At least one person was killed and four wounded in Aden, home to 350,000 people, Reuters correspondent Ashraf Fouad in Aden said.

An official in Sanaa said one southern missile exploded 40 km west of Sanaa but caused no damage or casualties.

Rwanda Hutus flee rebel advance on Gitarama

BUJUMBURA (AFP) — Hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutus streamed south towards Burundi Sunday as troops of the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) began to close in on the refugee-filled roads.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross said some 400,000 Rwandans were fleeing the fighting in the capital Kigali. "They have nothing to eat and nothing to drink. It is a very grave situation," said ICRC spokesman Tony Burgerer.

According to information received by the United Nations in Kigali, large numbers of Hutu-dominated government soldiers have also fallen back to the south.

A U.N. spokesman said six children were injured when a shell hit and badly damaged an orphanage during overnight fighting in the city.

The orphanage, run by a Frenchman who refused to leave when foreigners evacuated last month, was demolished in the attack, forcing the transfer of 120 orphans to another building, spokesman Abdul Kabia said.

The RPF's seizure last week of Kigali airport and the neighbouring military camp of Kanombe, gave the signal for the latest exodus of Hutus, following on from earlier waves started in April with the start of fighting which has left between 200,000 and 500,000 dead.



A young man, who is said to be a member of the Hutus fleeing Kigali is beaten on the road to Gitarama, 40 kilometres southwest of the capital (AFP photo)

In the first evacuation, foreign nationals escaped the savage fighting that followed the April 6 death of President Juvenal Habyarimana in a suspected rocket attack on his plane.

Then Hutus began to flee after learning that the self-styled Hutu-led interim government had itself fled Kigali on April 12, falling back to Gitarama, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the capital.

Tutsis, the main victims of

the early massacres, also fled, filling refugee camps in Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania and hoping for a speedy victory for the RPF.

After the rebels captured much of south-eastern Rwanda, some 250,000 Hutus fled overnight to Tanzania, making the refugee camp there, at Benaco, the largest refugee camp in the world.

And with Kigali's capture seeming just days away, the road to Butare, close to the

border with Burundi, has filled again with fleeing Hutu families, lining it with their makeshift camps.

Among the refugees, are the Hutu militias, authors of some of the worst massacres. They now fear the reprisals of the "Interahamwe", — an insulting term for the Tutsis — and claim they are needed to assure the "civilian defence" of the road south.

The rebels claimed Friday to have taken Ruhango, a major

trading centre 10 kilometres south of Gitarama, but this has not been confirmed.

The RPF has advanced up to the Kigali-Gitarama road, which the ICRC now refuses to use after one of its officials was injured there by rocket fire.

Jean Kambanda, the prime minister of the self-styled government knows he is "targeted" by the rebels.

"We are taking all the necessary measures," he told reporters at Gitarama Thursday. He claimed that Uganda, where many of the RPF troops had been trained, was helping the rebel force.

"We are fighting Uganda," he said.

Meanwhile, in Kigali, the U.N. said the city was calm Sunday morning while the RPF maintained its advance west and southwards towards Gitarama. Heavy fighting continued to rage around the northern town of Ruhengeri, Abdul Kabia said.

Security problems have forced the United Nations to suspend the evacuation of civilians trapped behind the front lines in Kigali, a U.N. source said Sunday.

"The decision has just been made. My understanding is that the operation is being put off, probably till tomorrow, while the security situation is examined," the source told Reuters.

U.S. launches Africa disaster aid survey mission

ASMARA (R) — The United States launched a mission Sunday to see how it can help about 50 million people in eastern Africa threatened by war, famine and other disasters.

President Bill Clinton's top foreign aid administrator was scheduled to start his mission in Eritrea, Africa's youngest state, before moving on to Ethiopia, the continent's oldest.

Both have been battered by fighting, drought and famine, with Eritrea still smarting from the wounds of a 30-year independence struggle, Africa's longest war.

The crisis in east Africa region threatens every nation in the region and is caused by drought and civil conflicts," said a White House statement released by the U.S. embassy in Kenya.

Brian Atwood, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, is leading a bipartisan delegation including members of Congress and representatives of private voluntary organisations working in the area.

"Members of the delegation will examine programme sponsored by the U.S. government and other donors that are designed to address factors which contribute to famine and civil unrest," the White House statement added.

U.S. officials say talks with Ethiopia, until recently a Marxist state virtually ostracised by the United States, would focus mainly on the renewed threat of famine there.

The Addis Ababa government says up to 7.5 million people are affected by famine. Donors have pledged up to 80 per cent of about one million tonnes of food aid required but delays in delivery have created grave concern.

Many countries in the region covered in Mr. Atwood's brief and stretching from the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean have felt the ripple effects of violence in Somalia since 1991.

Kenya is groaning under a crushing refugee and security

burden on its frontier with Somalia and is the staging post for military and humanitarian missions into the shattered country.

The United States ended its leading military role in Somalia in March but still has a key part to play in political moves to pacify the country. Somalia's chief faction leaders meet in Kenya Monday for exploratory peace talks.

Rwanda is not on Mr. Atwood's itinerary. But he will discover when he visits Nairobi that the bloodletting in the central African state, which has killed about 500,000 people in seven weeks, is the biggest immediate disaster facing the region.

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, the three countries sharing the waters of Lake Victoria, have appealed for urgent assistance to cope with an estimated 40,000 bodies that have drifted into the lake from Rwanda.

Uganda, which has buried up to 10,000 Rwandan bodies in mass graves, has declared three districts disaster areas and appealed for international assistance. The United States responded by giving Uganda \$140,000 last week.

Nearly two million Rwandans are homeless, many sheltering in neighbouring states notably Tanzania, which now boasts the world record for the largest refugee camp.

Mr. Atwood's talks with President Isayas Afewerki were expected to centre on Eritrea's huge post-war reconstruction problems.

Eritrea celebrated its first birthday anniversary last week with Mr. Afewerki saying a shortage of skilled labour and capital investment was of grave concern to an administration trying to tackle a shattered economy, soaring unemployment and emerging tribal and religious tensions.

Eritrea's rulers estimated late last year they needed about \$2 billion in emergency aid alone to kickstart the economy.

Japan Socialists: Hata must quit after budget

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Socialists, who hold the balance of power in parliament, said Sunday Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata and his minority government must resign after the state budget is passed.

In a statement issued after a two-day meeting of its Central Committee, the party made it clear it would not rejoin the coalition in its present form.

But the Socialists might join a new coalition formed after Mr. Hata and his cabinet resigned, it said.

"We will not return to the present ruling coalition. If the Hata cabinet refuses to resign, we will demand the prime minister dissolve the lower house and call general elections," it said.

Party Secretary-General Wataru Kubo said Mr. Hata might be re-elected to head a new government.

"I don't rule out the possibil-

ity of Mr. Hata becoming the prime minister in the new coalition. The head of each party within the coalition is eligible for premiership," he told reporters after the meeting.

Last month, the unpredictable Socialists walked out of the coalition on the day Mr. Hata was appointed prime minister, accusing their partners of trying to freeze them out of policymaking.

The defection robbed the alliance of its parliamentary majority.

Mr. Hata has been floundering since he formed the country's first minority government in four decades in late April. Few expect him to survive for long.

The Socialists stopped short of backing a non-confidence motion against Mr. Hata which other opposition parties were contemplating.

Hungary's Socialists optimistic of majority in election

BUDAPEST (R) — Ex-Communist reformers expressed confidence they would win an absolute parliamentary majority as Hungarians voted in the decisive second round of general elections Sunday.

The revamped Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) is seeking to cement its political comeback and make Hungary the next Eastern European country to entrust its future to politicians with roots in the Communist past.

"I am optimistic... (but) it is now (only) morning," HSP Chairman Gyula Horn, his head encased in a metal brace to protect a neck injury he suffered in a car accident on May 5, told reporters as he cast his vote.

The Socialists, helped by discontent with sliding living standards under four years of conservative rule, crushed the ruling centre-right coalition led by the Hungarian Democratic Forum in the first round on May 8.

Guided by many of the reform Communists who helped end the one-party state and negotiate free elections in 1990 that halted four decades of Communist rule, the HSP grabbed a third of votes for party lists, won two individual districts and led in 158 of 174 districts now to be decided by run-off voting.

That strong showing in the first round assured the Socialists 55 seats in the 386-seat parliament. To capture a majority, they must win a combination of at least 139 more seats from the 174 individual districts races or from the 85 slots allocated from a national compensatory list.

Under Hungary's complex electoral system, the national list collects votes that have not already elected someone to office. It reflects first-round votes cast for individual candidates not elected in either round, and votes cast for individual candidates not elected in either round, and votes cast for parties' regional lists but left over after the distribution of seats.

Turnout was strong, with an average 24.7 per cent of eligible voters having cast ballots in individual districts by 11 a.m. (0900 GMT), Hungarian Radio reported.

The National Electoral Committee is scheduled to announce preliminary final results Monday afternoon.

Following a recipe that proved successful for "new left" counterparts in Lithuania and Poland, the Socialists have won support by pledging to strengthen assistance for those hit hardest by moves to a market economy.

The Liberal Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD), which came a strong second in the first round, has urged voters to back the Socialists to prevent a huge Socialist bloc with strong links to organised labour from dominating parliament.

Non-aligned ministers to discuss Bosnia, Rwanda

CAIRO (R) — Foreign ministers of the Non-aligned Movement gathered in Egypt Tuesday for a meeting expected to focus on fighting in Bosnia and Rwanda and to set out plans to tackle economic problems of developing nations.

The meeting, the first major conference of Non-aligned ministers for nearly two years, is also due to choose a new chairman to succeed Indonesian leader Sukarno.

"We have tried to set out action-oriented programmes covering food security, population, and debt management," he said in an interview.

"These are complex problems which have been with us for decades. We hope to find a framework — the building blocks — for their solution," he said.

Mr. Sutresna said it was the turn of South America to provide the new chairman of the movement when Indonesia's term expires next year, but that no country from the region had yet applied.

Financial burdens had deterred many potential candidates, including Nicaragua. Diplomats said Iran might throw its name into the ring, but its application would be hampered by the fact that, like Indonesia, it is regarded as an Asian nation. Egypt and Morocco were also possible candidates.

Egypt expects around 80 foreign ministers to attend the conference, which it says will mark a further shift towards cooperation, not confrontation, with the outside world.

"The issue of ideology has been de-emphasised the issue of cooperation emphasised," a senior Egyptian diplomat said.

"International dialogue, the theme we have been pushing for years, is gradually gaining prominence," he added.

"The Non-Aligned Movement no longer aims to confront the outside world. We want to extend a hand, to have partnership and dialogue with countries of the world," said Mr. Sutresna.

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